

Agenda No. Item 8: Capacity Building in Space Law**Madam Chairperson and distinguished delegates,**

Rapid advances in the space technologies, innovative ways of using outer space coupled with an increasing number of countries engaging in space activities provide the context for the future for the international space law framework and to the space community. Issues such as small satellite activities, space debris mitigation and remedial measures, space resources utilization etc., are particularly relevant. While these issues are under active consideration of this Sub-Committee, it is imperative to develop necessary capacity building, training and education in space law. This will help in promoting international cooperation in space activities and building national expertise in countries with emerging space capabilities. In this context, we would like to express appreciation for the contributions made by UNCOPUOS through its Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Madam Chairperson

As an advanced space-faring nation, India is cognizant of the need to have appropriate human resources and capacities in space policies and legal regimes. In order to build capacity in Space Law, India has been supporting Indian law students to pursue space law topics, through various measures.

Considering the importance of space law as a specialized branch of international law, a number of law universities in India are offering space law courses. NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad and Gujarat National Law University, Ahmedabad have instituted Centres for Air and Space Law.

Indian Space Research Organisation has conducted structured training program on space law and policy for its members to increase awareness and build capacity in this specific area. For this programme, faculty has been drawn from various institutes across India. Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), an autonomous body under the Department of Space, offers high quality education at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels on

areas with special focus to space sciences, space technology and space applications. In addition, ISRO has been supporting academic institutions and professional bodies for the conduct of specialized workshops and seminars on space law. Participants of various courses offered at UN- affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), Dehradun, India are given exposure to Space law as part of their course for Indian and foreign trainees.

ISRO also represented as a member of the APRSAF study group comprising nine member countries in the Asia Pacific region which studied the status of national laws and regulations of participating States and also made a comparative analysis of the national practices in space law and the regional characteristics of the legislative processes.

Madam Chairperson

Considering the entry of more and more governmental and nongovernmental entities in outer space activities, growing efforts are needed to create awareness on international space law. In this context, we welcome continuing discussions in the Sub-Committee towards assessing the need for capacity-building, training, professional exchange and education of the member States, in particular, developing countries, and for its effective implementation. We assure you of our active participation and support in such initiatives of UNCOPUOS.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.