

Indonesia

Agenda 13: General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities

By: Mr. Erik Mangajaya

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the Statement of G77 and China on Item 13. We also would like to express some points in our national capacity.

Chair,

The development of satellite use has opened up so many opportunities for developing countries to access space activities in cheaper, faster and more affordable ways.

Having a unique archipelagic state condition, Indonesia attaches the importance of small satellite to connect, monitor and provide access and services to its regions and population.

It is my privilege to inform that Indonesia has developed numerous small satellites and is taking advantage of the small-satellite technology. Three indigenous satellites namely LAPAN-A-1, LAPAN-A-2, and LAPAN A-3 have been utilized for various fields. Indonesia also has launched Surya Satellite-1 (SS-1) which is the first nano-satellite made in Indonesia supported by JAXA and UNOOSA. We welcome further collaboration on this field.

Furthermore, Indonesia currently is developing the NEO-1 satellite, which will carry out earth observation missions, maritime surveillance and measurements of the earth's magnetic field.

Indonesia has also enhanced cooperation with public and private sectors in domestic and international level to develop satellite constellation application for various services in accordance with the agreement between parties.

Mr. Chair,

Indonesia takes notes with concern about the growing number of small satellites and mega-constellations that can impact to ground astronomy, Earth orbit, and Earth's upper atmosphere.

We observe that there is no specific sui generis system of regulations regarding Small Satellites and constellation satellites. In this regards, Indonesia is of the view that it is necessary to establish special international regulations that regulate access and development of small satellite and constellation satellite to maximize the benefit, overcome the challenges and strike a balance between rights and obligations or liabilities / responsibility of actors taking into account the needs, rational, fairness and efficient works. These regulations should also be aimed to guarantee fair competition.

We welcome any efforts to discuss the formulation of this new global governance, including the modalities, inter alia, substantive issues, procedural issues and method of works. The discussions in this Legal Subcommittee, we believe, could be also complemented by the discussions in STSC, vice versa. We look forward to working together with other member states on this effort.

In closing, Indonesia would like to emphasize the importance of enhancing registration practices, in particular with regard to large constellations and megaconstellations.

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Thank you