

UK Statement - UN LSC 2024 - Agenda Item 6 Status and Application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

Thank you Chair,

The United Kingdom has continued to be proactive in its efforts to promote the implementation of the space treaties, including through capacity building. The UK believes that COPUOS must continue to strengthen capacity building initiatives to solve space issues and address regional challenges.

We would first like to highlight two UK funded UNOOSA projects, the Long-Term Sustainability project and the Registration project and the outcomes they have achieved since the last Legal Subcommittee.

On the Long-Term Sustainability project, the third phase of this project concluded at the end of 2023. We are now pleased to be funding a fourth phase of this project in 2024 to continue this important work. This will include translation of the phase 3 funded e-module on LTS into French and Spanish to broaden access, two virtual training sessions to highlight open source SSA tools including how they can be practically utilised by member states and the development of an information repository to help member states track implementation progress of the LTS guidelines.

Chair,

On the Registration project, The UK has funded a 2-day expert event before the COPUOS plenary in 2023, where national representatives of 35 countries attended for presentations, panel events and breakout discussions between states. We hope this event was valuable for member states to discuss solutions to the challenges of registration and share experiences from established and emerging space states.

The UK has also funded the delivery of a registration stakeholder study which was compiled from 40 interviews of member states and set out anonymised views on best practice for registration policy, determining the state of registry and future trends for consideration. We have submitted a CRP to highlight this report for consideration by member states.

As the report notes, with the 50th anniversary of the Registration Convention coming into force in 2026 and the ongoing digitization of the UN Register, the international momentum on enhancing registration practices must be maintained and the UK will continue to play our part in this.

Alongside directly supporting UNOOSA projects, the UK has also recently provided UK experts to UNOOSA Technical Advisory Missions to support emerging space nations in developing their regimes with a focus on safe and sustainable space.

Chair,

Finally, we have submitted a Conference Room paper to the Five Treaties Working Group which set out our experience of utilising Article XI notifications to notify the UN about orbital events including decommissioning of UK satellites, changes in ownership and re-entry of UK satellites. The UK believes that through countries sharing their practical experience on using Article XI notifications, this will inform how we can agree on best practices for utilising Article XI.

Thank you for your kind attention Chair.