

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS)

Legal Subcommittee 2024

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

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 Mr. Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The United Arab Emirates remains committed to actively contribute to the work of the Committee and support its efforts toward the sustainability of outer space activities.

The UAE believes that the United Nations Treaties outline a comprehensive set of international principles that cover many of the fundamental issues, yet the rapid development of space technology and activities calls for evolving these treaties.

The UAE also believes that national legislations are an important instrument to implement international treaties.

Under the United Nations treaties on outer space, states are committed to organize their space activities through their national legal frameworks and ensure their compliance with such treaties.

In line with that, the UAE developed a comprehensive regulatory framework to regulate its space sector, taking into account its obligations under international Law. In 2019, the UAE issued its first national space law with the aim of enabling innovation, promoting investment, transparency and conformity with the international conventions in addition to supporting safety, security, and environment protection. In 2023, the aforementioned Law was updated to add more flexibility and adaptability with the advance technology and the increased interest in commercial space activities.

The UAE space law sets forth the general principles and rules for regulating the space sector in the UAE, and recently (9) separate regulations were issued, with more detailed terms, conditions and controls for various subjects covered in the law, to enhance the long-term stability and sustainability of the space activities. For example, Authorization Regulation, Regulation on the Compensation for Damage Caused to Third Party during the Space Activity, Space Debris Mitigation Guideline and Space Resources Exploration and Use Activities Regulation.

Mr. Chair,

The UAE recognizes the importance of collaboration and exchanging knowledge between nations on establishing national space legislation in alignment with International Law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.