



Permanent Mission of Italy  
International Organisations - Vienna

**63<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE  
LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)**

Item 9: General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

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Mister Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Italian delegation welcomes the discussion on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and the Working Group under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

Italy expresses gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the Expert Meeting convened in Luxembourg on March 26, 2024, and commends Belgium and Luxembourg for their collaborative efforts in co-hosting this event. The insights shared by various experts regarding the status quo and the significance of space resource activities in forthcoming robotic and human exploration programs were invaluable. It was underscored that while space resource utilization is still in a developing phase, it will be pivotal for the viability of space exploration activities in the long term.

Mr. Chair,

Italy further appreciates the recent International Conference on Space Resources held on April 15 here in Vienna. Drawing from the discussions concerning the international legal framework applicable to space resource activities, Italy reaffirms its stance that the utilization of space resources needs to be conducted in a safe, sustainable, responsible, and peaceful manner, in coherence with the existing rights and obligations embodied in international law, starting from the Outer Space Treaty. Nevertheless, further clarification of the existing framework and additional principles are

needed if we want to achieve an equitable yet effective governance of space resources activities.

For this reason, Italy actively supports the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities. Clarity is needed to reduce uncertainties on utilization of space resources and to validate its legitimacy under the UN Space Treaties. Only an appropriate legal environment would promote the smooth development of resource activities and the necessary economic investments.

Furthermore, the need to enhance the current legal framework is essential to guarantee the safety and sustainability of space resource activities. To that end, customary and conventional rules of international law, as well as non-binding instruments and initiatives, such as the Artemis Accords and the Building Blocks, could be considered in supporting the development of further regulation. Additionally, national legislation may bear relevance in this context.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, the discussions and the future findings of the Working Group, while not constituting authoritative interpretations or proposed amendments to the relevant UN Space Treaties, would be crucial in establishing a shared understanding of the fundamental principles governing space resource activities, in compliance with the existing international obligations.

Thank you.