

**Statement**  
by  
**the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
at  
**the Sixty-Third Session of**  
**the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

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

**15 - 26 April, 2024**

**Vienna, Austria**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledges the significance of addressing the legal aspects of space resources. We would like to express our deep appreciation for the efforts made via Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and emphasize the importance of a collective response and-solutions through this body.

Our delegation is of the firm belief that the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, serves as the foundation for governing space resource activities and highlight the need for its implementation in full conformity with its letter and spirit. In this regard, discussions should prioritize practical concerns such as non-appropriation, scientific investigation, coordination of activities, supervision of non-governmental entities, as well as sustainability in space resource utilization. We continue to support a collaborative and transparent approach that ensures equitable and peaceful exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources for the benefit of all humankind.

It should be noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has initiated preliminary design of exploration, missions on the lunar surface via international cooperation to pursue peaceful space exploration objectives.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources must be conducted solely for peaceful purposes, serving the collective benefit of all nations regardless of their economic or scientific progress, and in accordance with relevant international law.

Bearing in mind the concept of the common heritage of mankind and the impact of exploiting space resources, including lunar mineral resources on the environment of outer space and human life, it is necessary to establish a new legal framework that guarantees the sustainability of space activities with due regard to the circumstances, condition and the needs of all States. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran underscores the need for an inclusive approach and the international arrangements to ensure fair distribution and utilization of space resources.

In light of the rapid advancement of space technology driven by private entities with commercial interests; it is essential to reach a common understanding on the existing regulations of space resource activities. Furthermore, the legal ambiguities associated with the allocation of benefits of space explorations may lead to future conflicts and Jurisdictional issues. To address these challenges, we highlight the importance to establish a framework that clarifies the legal aspects of commercial activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resource.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, we are of the view, that discussions under the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) should be pursued in a manner to refrain from development of any norm, guideline, standards and other legal regulations that may restrict or limit the accessibility of developing countries to space resources and its benefits in future. Furthermore, this delegation stresses the importance of international cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations and its bodies.

I thank you.