



## **Group of 77 and China's position on the way forward for 59th session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) and the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of COPUOS**

In response to the information circular (reference number: OOSA/2020/14) regarding the Proposal by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on the way forward for the upcoming 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee and the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) under extraordinary measures the Group of 77 and China would like to express its position as follows:

The Group of G77 and China noted the Chair's proposal contained in the information circular (reference number: OOSA/2020/14) on the way forward for 59<sup>th</sup> session of the LSC and 63<sup>rd</sup> session of COPUOS. The group also noted various concerns raised by its members during the virtual briefing meetings with UNOOSA regarding this issue.

The Group is of the opinion that at this stage, the extraordinary meetings of 59<sup>th</sup> session of the LSC and 63<sup>rd</sup> session of COPUOS should be limited strictly to the procedural issues which are necessary for continuation of the work of the committee in 2021 and all substantive discussions on various topics should be postponed to a later stage when the physical presence of the experts from capitals becomes possible. This position also applies to the work of the SPACE 2030 Agenda working group. In this vein the group is of the view that the meetings of the SPACE 2030 Agenda working group should also be postponed.

The Group of 77 and China also wants to seize this opportunity to reiterate its position as stated in a letter to the Executive Heads of the four main Vienna-based UN organizations dated 27 May 2020 including specifically regarding virtual and hybrid meetings that "Virtual and hybrid meetings should have a clear view on the rules of procedure and methods of work and be more feasible for briefings, extended bureau meetings, or smaller group meetings. However, it may pose a problem when it comes to formal or informal meetings especially when there is a need to negotiate outcomes and decisions.