



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-22 April 2026,
delivered by Ms. Devi Gopinath,
Alternate Permanent Representative of India**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Thank you Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain, for his dedication and successful tenure as Chairperson of the LSC and also congratulate Mr. Pablo Arrocha Olabuenaga, the Legal Adviser to the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for chairing the 65th LSC Session, and you can be assured of our full support.

2. The Group takes the opportunity to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the preparations and arrangements for convening this meeting.

Chair,

3. At the outset, the Group reiterates its strict adherence to the **principles** governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those in the Outer Space Treaty and as outlined in RES. GA.1962 (XVIII) and RES. GA.1884 (XVIII).

4. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for **peaceful purposes**, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable **international law**.

5. The Group also urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and related actions contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations, mindful that they hamper or impede access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries. All outer space activities, including mega constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, international law and the **principle of non-intervention**.

6. The **principle of non-appropriation** states that outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies is not subject to national appropriation, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means.

7. The Group emphasizes that the main principles of relevant United Nations treaties and the peaceful uses of outer space should drive our discussions on the “Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space” as well as the “utilization of Space Resources”. The established principle of **non-appropriation** of outer space must be honoured and maintained.

8. Another fundamental principle is the **universal and equal access to outer space** for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic

development as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space for the **benefit** and in the interests of all humankind.

9. The Group recalls that the principle of non-militarization of outer space implies that it shall never be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind, and as province of mankind, its strict use must be for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples.

10. In line with this, the Group reaffirms the importance of **preventing an arms race** and the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space, and calls upon all States, particularly those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively and commit to preserving outer space as a peaceful environment.

11. The Group believes that the **sustainability** of outer space activities in the short, medium and long term requires the international community to ensure that no weapons are ever placed or used there, in accordance with Art. IV of the Outer Space Treaty.

12. The Group reiterates that all outer space activities and any endeavor to **explore and utilize** outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies must adhere to the principles and objectives of international law, United Nations treaties, particularly the Outer Space Treaty.

13. It is imperative to increase efforts so that the benefits from outer space activities can be extended to all States particularly developing countries. **Developing** countries are increasingly engaging in space activities and in the membership and discussions of COPUOS.

14. In line with this, it is important to highlight that **international cooperation** in the development of space activities is also a paramount principle, especially for those referred to in the UNGA Resolution A/RES/51/122: “***Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the benefit and in the interest of all States taking in particular account the needs of developing countries***”.

15. Furthermore, and in line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote wider participation of developing countries through proactively rendering assistance by advanced space faring nations. Therefore, the Group also highlights the importance of supporting developing countries in their endeavours to develop national space infrastructure as an essential component of equitable access to outer space.

16. The sustainable use of outer space should place a special emphasis on capacity-building activities to bridge the huge **divide** between developed and developing countries in this domain and address the growing need to secure sufficient resources to this end. We also underscore the continued relevance of the SDGs, the "Space2030" Agenda and its Implementation Plan.

17. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for COPUOS to devote more efforts for **capacity-building in space law and policy**, and make the required expertise available to developing countries, facilitated by UNOOSA.

18. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding as well as mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA’s capacity-building and technical assistance programmes.

Chair,

19. The Group notes the increased role of non-governmental organizations in space activities and reiterates the relevance of Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty in this regard, particularly the **responsibility** of States Parties to the Treaty for national activities in outer space, and that the activities of non-governmental organizations in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.

Chair,

20. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the **primary UN forum** to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. Accordingly, the Group reaffirms that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States.

21. The Group is of the view that the discussions of this Subcommittee should not lead to any **measures, including norms, guidelines and standards that would limit access of developing and emerging space-faring countries** to outer space.

22. At the same time, the Group underscores the importance that its core positions continue to be fully reflected in the final reports of the Committee and its Subcommittees, including positions related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Space Agenda 2030. The development dimension remains the core objective of the Group and a cornerstone of the mandate of this Office. Any discussion on the future role, priorities, or methods of work of the Committee and its Subcommittees should remain fully consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.

23. Finally, for the G-77 and China it is important to reach consensus on the reports of the Committee and its Sub-Committees in order to make progress on issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space conducive to our collective advantage, thus avoiding politicization and prolongation of discussions that exceed the mandate of COPUOS.

Thank you.



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**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,

1. The Group of 77 and China is of the view that a wide adherence and membership to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safe, secure and sustainable atmosphere for the development of outer space activities and enhancing the effectiveness of COPUOS as the main body for discussing and negotiating international space law.
2. We therefore note with appreciation the growing number of parties to the UN treaties on outer space and encourage those States that have not yet become parties to them to consider doing so.
3. The Group recalls the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 which constitutes the foundational framework governing international space activities. This instrument affirms the freedom of exploration and use of outer space by all States without discrimination and on a basis of equality, and emphasizes the obligation to conduct space activities with due regard to the interests of other States. It further underscores the promotion of international cooperation, the sharing of scientific research and information, and the principle that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, irrespective of their level of economic or scientific development.
4. In this context, the Group reaffirms the established principles governing outer space activities, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination, non-appropriation, equal access, the use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies for the benefit and in the interests of all States with particular consideration for the needs of developing countries, and the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.
5. In this regard, the Group is of the view that any action by space actors and entities should conform to applicable international space law.

Thank you.



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**AGENDA ITEM 7(A): THE DEFINITION AND DELIMITATION OF OUTER
SPACE**

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation on this agenda item, particularly the contributions from Member States on their legal approaches to the definition and delimitation of outer space and suborbital flights, as well as the historical summary on the consideration of the question on the definition and delimitation of outer space.
2. The Group underscores that the definition and delimitation of outer space is an important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in this direction considering the difference between legal regimes governing airspace and outer space.
3. The Group reiterates its commitment to continuing the discussion on issues related to definition and delimitation of outer space, including on the working group on Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and invites other countries to contribute in order to reach consensus.

Thank you.



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**AGENDA ITEM 7(B): THE CHARACTER AND UTILIZATION OF THE
GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF WAYS AND
MEANS TO ENSURE THE RATIONAL AND EQUITABLE USE OF THE
GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE ROLE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China firmly believes that geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation — shall be used rationally and shall be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities.
2. The Group reiterates the need to ensure that the current uses of the geostationary orbit would provide States with the possibility of gaining their access to the orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of the ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.
3. With the unprecedented rate at which developed countries are employing satellites to exploit the latest technology, there has been increasing awareness of the limitations of geostationary orbit.
4. Despite the relatively rapid development of certain developing countries in recent years, significant disparity between the ability of developed and developing countries to utilize satellite technology generally remains and it needs to be addressed appropriately.
5. The Group underscores that the geostationary orbit shall not be subject to national appropriation, and that its utilization shall be governed by applicable international law and in accordance with the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, in order to ensure the guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries in certain geographical positions.
6. Bearing in mind that communications satellites are an indispensable tool in the efforts to promote the development of all countries, the Group is of the view that, in order to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure equitable access to geostationary orbit, it is necessary to keep this issue on the agenda of this Subcommittee.

Thank you Chair.



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**AGENDA ITEM 8: FUTURE ROLE AND METHOD OF WORK OF THE
COMMITTEE**

Chair,

1. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the primary **UN forum** to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.
2. The Group of 77 and China stands ready to engage constructively with the Secretariat and Member States in addressing the implications of the current liquidity crisis. In this regard, the Group looks forward to receiving further detailed information on the budgetary situation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as on possible efficiencies already achieved or envisaged by the Secretariat. The Group reiterates, however, that any measures undertaken to address the liquidity situation must not adversely affect the activities or programmes benefiting developing countries.
3. In this context, the Group is prepared to consider practical and reasonable options, to improve the organization and the work of the Committee and Subcommittee. At the same time, the Group underscores that all its core positions must continue to be fully reflected in the final reports of the Committee and its Subcommittees, including positions related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Space Agenda 2030.
4. The Group therefore reiterates its request to retain and consolidate the relevant agenda items related to capacity building and Space for sustainable development, as well as similar agenda items in the Committee and the two Subcommittees. The development dimension remains the core objective of the Group and a cornerstone of the mandate of this Office. Any discussion on the future role, priorities, or methods of work of the Committee and its Subcommittees should remain consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.
5. In this regard, the Group recalls that the annual resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including most recently resolution 80/76, constitute the mandate for the work of this august body. The Group underscores the centrality of international cooperation as a guiding principle of the Committee's work, to be pursued with due consideration for the interests and needs of developing countries.
6. The Group further emphasizes the need to seize this opportunity to address current challenges and to consolidate and to advance the aspirations of developing countries regarding the peaceful uses of outer space. This includes strengthening international cooperation, equitable access, and promoting the benefits of space activities for all humankind, in particular through enhanced support for space science and applications in developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group recommends that there should be greater interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote advancements in space law, so that it would be aligned with the major scientific and technical advances in space activities.

8. The Group is of the view that such coordination and synergies between the two Subcommittees can also promote greater understanding, acceptance and further implementation of the existing United Nations legal instruments.

9. The Group is of the view that the discussions of this Subcommittee should not lead to any measures, including norms, guidelines and standards that would limit access of developing and emerging space-faring countries to outer space. Accordingly, the Group believes that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States.

10. Finally, for the G-77 and China it is important to reach consensus on the reports of the Committee and its Sub-Committees in order to make progress on issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space conducive to our collective advantage, thus avoiding politicization and prolongation of discussions that exceed the mandate of COPUOS.

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**AGENDA ITEM 9: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL
MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND
UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES**

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores the importance of this topic in connection with the future of international cooperation in space exploration. The Group believes that discussions or any potential legal model on Space resource activities should not depart from the basic legal principles of the non-appropriation and equitable access to outer space, which is the common province of humankind.
2. The Group expresses its concern that some countries have introduced national laws allowing the exploitation of celestial bodies for economic purposes. It is thus urgent for this Subcommittee to consider how such developments interact with the body of established international space law, in order to avoid gaps or contradictions in the legal framework in this area and to provide a clear understanding of the legal obligations of States in space exploration, exploitation and utilization.
3. The Group reiterates its support of the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource activities, established under this agenda item, led by its Chair Prof. Steven Freeland of Australia and its Vice Chair Dr. Ayman Mahmoud of Egypt.
4. The Group takes note of the updated draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities and looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this pertinent issue.
5. In this regard, The Group believes that discussions should be as inclusive as possible for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries. Therefore, these discussions should take place within formal sessions, which should be allotted sufficient time, with interpretation services in all official UN languages.
6. The Group reiterates its position on the priority of safeguarding the established principles of the Outer Space Treaty including non-appropriation, equal access and international cooperation and taking into account the interests of developing countries in outer space activities including space resource activities.
7. The Group is of the view that any approach for the exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative, consensus-based, and most of all, does not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries.
8. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, a possible international instrument, in

accordance with Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space, could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity while taking into account the interests of developing countries.

9. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be taken into account in the discussion.

Thank you.



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**AGENDA ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS
ON LEGAL MECHANISMS RELATING TO SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION AND
REMEDATION MEASURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Chair,

1. The issue of space debris, its proliferation and challenges posed by its removal are a growing cause for concern in the space environment.
2. The Group reiterates the need to take active measures to reduce pollution in the Earth's orbit and prevent accidental collisions of debris with space objects.
3. The Group also expresses its concern regarding falling space debris, including during launch and uncontrolled re-entry, which pose a threat to human life, infrastructure, environment and communities on Earth.
4. In this regard, the concept of mitigation and remediation of space debris in the form of removal of debris appears to be viable methods of preventing such collisions in space.
5. The Group believes that the proliferation of Space Debris may disproportionately affect developing countries. Therefore the Group is of the view that the issue of preventing and mitigating its creation is of utmost importance and should continue to be treated as a priority with the view to prevent collisions. The Group underscores the need for developing countries to have access to technologies, equipment and methodologies for the measurement, monitoring and characterization of space debris and other space objects and calls for increased cooperation in addressing these issues.
6. The Group understands that there are some contentious issues before the LSC regarding this matter. The Group believes that it is important for all States to register all space objects launched into outer space. The Group also believes that no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
7. On the issue of the definition of space debris, the Group acknowledges that COPUOS is the proper forum for this discussion and supports a consultative process involving all Member States of the Committee.
8. With regard to the decongestion of outer space through remediation, the Group encourages Member States to adopt common but differentiated responsibilities, with the actors largely responsible for creating space debris the most involved in space debris removal activities, and that those actors should make available their scientific, technical and legal expertise to developing countries.

9. With regard to falling space debris, the Group encourages launching states to provide advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other States, especially developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, as applicable, to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents. It is equally important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris.

10. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant non-legally binding and voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application.

11. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures, and also reiterates its position regarding the priority of safeguarding the interests of developing countries in the current discussions related to the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Thank you, Chair.



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**AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NON-
LEGALLY BINDING UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON OUTER SPACE**

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law.
2. With regard to information exchange, the Group encourages the States launching objects into orbit, in accordance with their commitments under GA Resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 1961, 1721 B and 1962 (XVIII), Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States and the Exploration and Use of Outer Space of 1963, to furnish information to COPUOS through the UN Secretary General, who is also requested to maintain a public registry, and consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of information exchange on its space object(s), as appropriate.
3. With regard to the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, adopted by the UN General Assembly¹, the Group underscores the importance of upholding the principle of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a nondiscriminatory basis, as this type of information is essential to the promotion of sustainable development in areas such as agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change, and global health, and also promotes transparency and confidence among States.
4. The Group reiterates its support of the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries², which was adopted by the UN General Assembly.
5. The Group believes that this instrument is important as it further promotes international cooperation in a bid to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis and to refrain from introducing unilateral restrictive measures hampering this cooperation.
6. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation.

Thank you Chair.

¹ A/RES/41/65, adopted by the 41st UNGA on 3 December 1986.

² A/RES/51/122, adopted by the 51st UNGA on 4 February 1997.



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**AGENDA ITEM 13: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL-SATELLITE ACTIVITIES**

Chair,

1. Presently, a legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite does not exist and under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term “space object” refers to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts.
2. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socio-economic development of Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees should not impose any limitations on designing, building, launching and use of space objects by developing countries.
3. The Group also reiterates its previous statements regarding:
 - i. The importance of ensuring guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries.
 - ii. That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State; and
 - iii. Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.

Thank you Chair.