



**65th session of the Legal Subcommittee of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

15 – 22 April 2026

Statement by Australia

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

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the United Nations space treaties provide the foundation for the peaceful and safe use of outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies. As interest in the exploration of outer space grows, the Committee’s consensus-based approach to addressing emerging issues is as important as ever.

Chair,

Australia is a State Party to the five United Nations space treaties.

Australia is also a founding signatory to the Artemis Accords, which establish a practical set of principles to guide space exploration.

Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Chair,

Australia is pleased to contribute to the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, including its continued development of a set of initial recommended principles.

Australia thanks the Chair of the Working Group, Mr Steven Freeland, and the Vice Chair, Mr Ayman Ahmed, you have our full support.

Australia gives close consideration to our relevant international obligations and commitments, including in the context of future planned activities.

This includes an activity that is to be conducted as part of the Trailblazer lunar rover program under the Australian Government's Moon to Mars Initiative. The program includes the development, launch and operation of a foundation services rover, carrying technology demonstration instruments that will help study lunar regolith to support humanity's return to the Moon and beyond.

With the growing interest in lunar exploration, it is important that the Working Group develops principles that provide guidance regarding activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources. In doing so, it is also important that the Working Group considers the need for such activities to be carried out in accordance with international law, and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

Australia was pleased to receive the draft set of initial recommended principles, and to contribute to their further development. Recent intersessional meetings of the Working Group have provided an opportunity for productive discussions, and we look forward to further exchanges during this session.

We note matters which may be of relevance to space resource activities – for example, information-sharing– are currently being considered within the Committee. This includes by the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC).

In all our work, it is important that each line of effort complements the others. To this end, Australia supports continued consultation between the bureaux of the Committee’s Working Groups and the ATLAC, as appropriate.

Closing

Chair,

Australia is of the view that there is a clear operational and practical need to work together in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space.

In this regard, we look forward to working with Member States on the continued development of a set of initial recommended principles for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

Thank you.