



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space
61st Session of
Legal Subcommittee
28 March to 8 April 2022

Agenda Item 4
General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to participate online in the 61st Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and deliver a short statement on behalf of UNISEC-Global. UNISEC-Global is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization dedicated to space education, with permanent observer status to the committee.

To begin with, I would like to congratulate Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja, a newly elected chair of this subcommittee, and express my sincere appreciation to her for securing my video statement.

I must also thank Mr. Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat staff for the hybrid meeting arrangements. At the same time, I have learned with regret of the sudden departure of Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I appreciate her dedication to the committee and wish her continued success in the future.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

Firstly, UNISEC-Global mainly focuses on disseminating space science and technology, including practical space engineering information to university students and young researchers worldwide with particular emphasis on enabling spacefaring capability.

Simultaneously, we recognize the growing importance of legal aspects for ensuring the harmonized and healthy development of space activities internationally. While placing emphasis on space engineering, we have introduced the Guiding Principles in 2018, a self-disciplined code of conduct for UNISEC-Global. It consists of 12 items, stipulating how to deal with research projects and consider others. In the Guiding Principles, we emphasize the importance of the existing rules to be respected, including the United Nations Outer Space Treaty through to our internal rules for individual projects. The Guiding Principles have been translated into various languages, with our desire to share our research spirit among potential leaders of the future worldwide.

Secondly, we have recently launched the “UNISEC Local Chapter Empowerment Program.” The Program is to energize or revitalize the existing UNISEC-Global local chapters. We organized seminars to share the experiences and know-how of our original University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC), established in Japan in 2002. Our program concept is to contribute to developing a business ecosystem in space-related industries by connecting young people’s interests and industry needs with university education and research capability. These local chapters would be expected to play a catalytic role in creating such an ecosystem and contributing to regional development. Local Chapters also host our monthly virtual meeting, inviting guest speakers from their regions and strengthening our collective community.

The third point I would like to mention briefly here is that we have decided to participate in the working group on the long-term sustainability (LST) of outer space activities. We want to make a positive contribution to the working group based on our experiences of

space educational activities. However, as a space engineering-oriented body, our familiarity with the legal aspects of space activities is limited. Therefore, we are interested in deepening our understanding of legal matters which may arise during discussions on the issues related to long-term sustainability.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

I want to touch upon our activities where young people from around the world are ignited by our training programs, such as the CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP) and the Satellite Mission Idea Contest (MIC), to forge new regional space capability in their communities. Both programs are based upon our founding spirit, which says everyone should be entitled to participate in space science and technology activities for peaceful purposes and the benefits of humankind. Our involvement has naturally placed emphasis on space engineering. However, considering a growing need for the long-term sustainable development of outer space activities, we feel it is essential that such development should be ensured in a well-ordered way. In this sense, this subcommittee has much to offer and would play a critical role in providing the regulatory framework that includes international space law. Notably, we have a particular interest in Agenda Item 9, “Capacity Building in Space Law and Item 14, “Application of International Law to Small-Satellite Activities.”

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

We will sustain and strengthen our activities based on our experiences and know-how over 20 years of providing practical space engineering training to young people worldwide. And we will endeavor

to provide learning opportunities towards the legal aspects of space through our network.

From technical and legal points of view, we wish for the establishment of systematic conditions which would involve university students and young researchers for future space activities.

Let me conclude my statement by quoting an African proverb that encourages and inspires us. "If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go further, go together." UNISEC-Global chose to go together. Whatever our background, all of us, lawyers, scientists, engineers, businesspeople, government employees, interpreters, and so on, should cooperate and collaborate, leaning on each other's strengths and bolstering each other's weaknesses, to enable us to go further and further in outer space.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)