

## UK Statement – UN COPUOS 2023 – Agenda Item 14 - Future Role of the Committee

Chair,

Please allow me to set out the view of the United Kingdom on the future role of COPUOS. As you know, the United Kingdom has taken a leading role on both the space sustainability agenda and that for space security.

We believe that COPUOS has a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the space environment.

It can monitor the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, set the international framework for safe space operations, support safe and sustainable space exploration, help address climate change and find new ways of listening to member states and their academics, companies and scientists.

We believe that COPUOS is an example of how to build constructive discussions about issues that affect us all; And which will define our common future. For these reasons, we welcome the fact that the Committee has grown both in terms of new Members and new observers. We look forward to hearing from Member States from across all regional groups, to understand their priorities and to understand our part in enhancing cooperation and the peaceful uses of Outer Space.

We will continue to be active in COPUOS, and in support of UNOOSA, including through funding programmes to help others to implement the Long-Term Sustainability guidelines.

The UK has actively engaged in cross-regional discussions, here in Vienna, to better understand how we might utilise COPUOS in new, improved, ways. Our hope is to create the space for increased interaction between Member States, including through informal discussion, by creating space for our experts to speak to each other, and to consider new agenda items and the concerns of our new Members, whilst retaining the valuable discussions here.

Chair, the UK stands ready to engage in an active debate under this agenda item, to hear the ideas of all Member States; aimed at further improving the wonderful platform we have in Vienna; and to find new ways to discuss our common goal of finding ever more peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space.

We believe that this would be of great value to all Member States and we are ready to engage constructively and in the spirit of openness.