



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021, Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views**

*Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning.*

I would like to begin by congratulating you for your election as the Chair of this Committee and express my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this session. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Director Simonetta Di Pippo and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent organisation of this meeting, which allows for a continued dialogue and exchange among the Member States of the Committee, while physical attendance by everyone is yet not possible.

*Mr Chair and distinguished Delegates,*

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

We recognize the importance of this Committee as an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on the scientific, technical as well as policy and legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for fostering international cooperation in this regard, and wish to actively contribute in the work of this session.

Finland believes that continuous dialogue in a multilateral forum such as this Committee provides the best possibilities for fruitful and effective international cooperation, coordination and information sharing, a necessity to ensure the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. More than ever, we need effective multilateral international cooperation, as the global pandemic has on its part reinforced the trends towards national and regional approaches, also within the governance of space activities. We consider that the primary method to develop international space law and policy, and to tackle global questions and challenges, should be done through international and multilateral cooperation. We encourage continued exchange and information sharing, between all the actors at all the levels, for the peaceful exploration and for the safe and sustainable, intergenerational use of outer space.

*Mr. Chair,*

Finland has a particular interest in small satellite activities. The first satellite mission registered in Finland was launched in 2017, and today, Finnish non-governmental operators have launched altogether seventeen satellites. These satellites include both missions by scientific institutions as well

as commercial companies. The themes of sustainable use of outer space and sustainable growth of the space sector, in particular the NewSpace economy, are the key priorities of the Finnish space policy. We consider that COPUOS is the right multilateral forum to address topics relevant to safe and sustainable space activities, including the role of space solutions in combatting climate change.

Finland's national climate targets are ambitious: Finland will be climate neutral by 2035 and carbon negative soon after that. Space data plays a key role in monitoring the environmental changes and the key variables such as greenhouse gases as well as reacting to natural disasters. For example, promising results have been achieved in Finland in using satellite data to complement in situ data for water quality monitoring. Satellite-based monitoring can enable more comprehensive results and allows coverage also on remote regions.

Finland is an Arctic country and one of the eight member states in the Arctic Council. Finland sees the Arctic as one important area of regional collaboration. Sustainable growth of the Arctic area can be ensured through active development and use of space infrastructure that can serve the specific needs of the area.

We recognize the importance of gender equality. A lot of work needs to be done in that regard in the space sector, where women have remained underrepresented.

*Mr. Chair,*

Finland welcomes the adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities by the Committee in 2019, and their subsequent endorsement by the General Assembly, with great appreciation. We wish to congratulate Mr. Umamaheswaran of India for his election as the Chair of the Working Group on the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities during the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Finland gives its full support in the process of finalising the organisation of the LTS working group and intends to actively cooperate with other delegations during this session in forming consensus on the goals and methods of work and working plan in accordance with the three pillars of the mandate of the working group, so that substantive work can commence as soon as possible.

*Mr. Chair,*

Finland is of the opinion that exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources are best to be coordinated at international, multilateral level for the peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space, that is carried out in accordance with international law and in the benefit and interests of all States. Finland welcomes with great appreciation the establishment of the Working Group under the Agenda Item of Exploration, Exploitation and Utilization of Space Resources in ensuring meaningful and effective exchange among the member States of the Committee. We wish to thank the co-moderators, Andrzej Misztal and Steven Freeland, for their efforts, and wish to congratulate them on their election as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group. We also wish to thank all the delegations for their active participation and constructive discussions during the last session of the Legal Subcommittee. We wish specifically thank the delegations of Austria, Belgium, Czechia,

Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain, who joined to co-sponsor the conference room paper on the establishment of a working group on space resources initiated by Germany and Finland.

We wish to actively engage with all delegations to find consensus on the methods of work, terms of reference and dedicated work plan during this session, so that the working group can officially begin its work in 2022.

*I wish everyone an interesting and fruitful session. Thank you Mr. Chair*