

Germany, Item 5

**UNCOPUOS
65th Session, Vienna, 01 – 10 June 2022**

Agenda Item 5: General Exchange of Views

Statement by Germany

Honorable Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Given the extraordinary times we have to witness,

I wish to express our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, with the culpable complicity of Belarus, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. We demand that the Russian Federation immediately ceases its military actions, withdraws all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. We recall Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. This prohibition is a peremptory norm of international law that all States must abide by.

Therefore, we wish to reiterate that we are not in a position to support the proposed establishment of a new regional centre for space science and technology education in the Russian Federation. Such regional centres, affiliated to the United Nations, are aimed at facilitating international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as noted in UN General Assembly Resolution 76/76. Unfortunately, Russia's destabilizing behavior does not correspond with the conduct of a responsible space actor and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law including the UN Charter as set out in Article III of the Outer Space Treaty. It poses a grave threat to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Against this backdrop, we can no longer support this RUS initiative and invite all UN Member States to reconsider their position.

In this challenging period and on behalf of the German delegation I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and assure you of our delegation's

full support. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso for his guidance throughout the past session in 2021. Let me also express our appreciation for the excellent work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs led by Acting Director Mr. Niklas Hedman – not only during the preparation of this session, which takes place under still unprecedented difficult circumstances, but also in fulfilling its multiple challenging tasks and mandates under the UN treaties and programs on outer space.

Mr. Chair, distinguished Delegates,

the contributions of space technology, data and applications to the implementation of the global agendas on sustainable development, climate change and disaster management are significant and **international cooperation is therefore key to bringing the benefits of space to everyone.**

Germany considers a **multilateral approach** as fundamental to achieving safe and sustainable use of outer space in the long-term. We therefore also consider **the “Space2030” agenda** and its implementation plan as remarkable steps forward.

COPUOS and its two subcommittees remain unique platforms for the development of global space governance; and the establishment of two new working groups underlines the need for further cooperation and guidance. Germany is pleased that both: **the LTS and the Space Resources Working Group managed to reach consensus** on their work plans, terms of reference and methods of work – providing the basis for their substantial work, which can now begin. Convinced of their crucial relevance for the future of space exploration we have taken an active role in these discussions and are committed to remain active in the important constructive exchanges on these issues.

Finally, I would like to present briefly some activities in the German space programme. Germany regards space as a key to solving global challenges on Earth.

To this end, we have placed a strong emphasis on measuring our space projects according to their contribution to social, economic and scientific objectives. I will give you some examples:

- In the **Satellite-based Monitoring Service of Urbanization in Africa project**¹, DLR and the World Bank collaborated to analyze Earth observation images from the entire African continent and combine them with other data sources to provide for regular mapping based on up-to-date reliable, open and free satellite data as a central role in adapting to extreme events. The large data volumes derive primarily from European Sentinel satellites and the US Landsat programme.
- In the **Space Seeds 2.0**² hands-on activity, primary school children will conduct research with wildflower seeds that have been on board the ISS together with German ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer for an extended period of time. At the end of the Cosmic Kiss mission, they have been brought back to Earth. Children thus become researchers to investigate the influence of space on the seeds, while gaining awareness of biodiversity and the need to protect our planet.
- With the **EO College Portal** Germany continues to offer together with ESA **massive open online courses** about remote sensing – accessible from around the world, thereby contributing to space-related education without any barriers to participation.

In addition to our national activities in monitoring climate change and researching mitigation measures and its consequences, Germany continues to support international programmes and efforts. In this sense, we collaborate within the European Space Agency (ESA), European Union (EU) and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) as well as in the context of UN-SPIDER, the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).

¹ https://www.dlr.de/content/en/articles/news/2022/02/20220510_dlr-data-shows-where-people-are-at-risk-from-natural-disasters.html

² <https://www.dlr.de/content/de/artikel/missionen-projekte/cosmic-kiss/nachwuchsfoerderung.html>

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by reiterating the importance Germany attaches to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to ensure **sustainable and safe access and use of outer space for current and future generations**.

We consider this Committee and UNOOSA as a crucial platform for international cooperation and are looking forward to constructive exchanges in the years to come.

We thank you for your kind attention.