



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 65th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 1 June – 10 June 2022, Agenda Item 5 – 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 express our appreciation to Marius Piso of Romania for his contributions as the previous Chair of the Committee.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge and thank the acting director Niklas Hedman 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 Members of the Committee, while physical attendance by everyone is not yet possible.

We welcome Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, and Slovenia as the new States members of the Committee.

Finland condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Finland firmly supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity. The attack is a grave breach of international law and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Russia must cease military operations immediately.

Given the current circumstances, we are not in a position to support the proposal by the Russian Federation to establish a new Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in the Eurasian region, affiliated to the United Nations and hosted by the Roscosmos Corporate Academy.

Mr Chair, your Excellences, 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 on 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. 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, there are eighteen satellites by Finnish operators in the national registry of space objects. 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 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 efforts as the Chair of the Working Group. Finland gives its full support to the work of the working group and intends to actively cooperate with other delegations to support sustainable and safe space activities.

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 endorsement of the work plan of the Working Group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities in ensuring meaningful and effective exchange among the member States of the Committee. We wish to thank the Chair Andrzej Misztal and Vice-Chair Steven Freeland for their efforts. We also wish to thank all the delegations for their active participation and constructive discussions during the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

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