

From :	Agencia Espacial Portuguesa (Portuguese Space Agency)
To :	-
Cc :	-
Subject :	Draft Statement to the 65th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), Vienna, 1-10 June 2022

**Portuguese Statement on
Agenda item 5 “General exchange of views”
65th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
(COPUOS)
Vienna, 1-10 June 2022**

Mr. Chair,

1. As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor in this session, I would like to congratulate you Mr. Sharaf on your election as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and assure you and your Vice Chairs, our full support and cooperation. I would also like to express our appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Dr. Marius–Ioan Piso, of Romania, for his skilful guidance over the past two years and to the outgoing Director, Dr Simontta de Pippo, and acting director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and Secretary, Mr Nicklas Headman, for his wide expertise and relentless technical support in the works of COPUOS and its committees, wishing all the best in his future endeavours.
2. At the outset, I would reiterate Portugal’s full alignment with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union, in particular regarding the condemnation in the strongest possible terms of military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

~~3. Due to the profound disregard of international law showed by this ongoing military aggression and Russia's destabilising behaviour, its anti satellite test conducts last November, Portugal is no longer able to support the establishment of a new regional centre for space science and technology education in the Eurasian region, to be hosted by Roseosmos, as proposed by the Russian Federation.~~

4. This events, should also recall us of the critical use of space for peaceful purposes and UNOOSA's fundamental role in dealing with such challenges in the international scene.

Mr. Chair,

5. COPUOS and its Subcommittees are unique frameworks to discuss international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the development of international space law, guidelines, best practices, and other transparency and confidence building measures regulating space activities. As recognised by the UN Secretary General in his report "Our Common Agenda", this Committee is of extreme importance and relevance to keep global space governance.

6. Portugal welcomes the new members: Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, Slovenia and Angola – a dear and long-standing partner. We are certain that this growing number of COPUOS member states and observers request, more than a sign of the political importance of space, is also the consequence of the increasing recognition of the importance of space by the society, by the socio-economic agents, and the growing presence of space in actively promoting a positive change in life on Earth.

7. In relation to the requests as observers, Portugal especially supports the request of the Atlantic International Research Centre - Air Centre. In fact, as sated in the annexes of Conference Room 5 document, Portugal had the lead in the creation and set up of this international networked institution along the Atlantic Ocean.

8. Portugal welcomes the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, as is keen on continuing the good work pace of this topic, established under the close leadership of Andrzej Misztal and Steven Freeland and the open cooperation of all the delegations.
9. Portugal also welcomes the establishment of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as Portugal is actively committed to the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. We have done an internal assessment of the 2019 LTS Guidelines implementation and the results were very satisfactory, considering especially the national regulatory framework – comprising both the space law and the space regulation, that, inclusively, have an express legal reference to the UN Guidelines on space debris - and the interlink between some of the scientific themes that are being developed and their use and application by the national industry.
10. The Sustainable Development is prosecuted as comprehensive part of the Portuguese Space Agency activities and policy. This is reflected in several initiatives, including in one of the Agency’s flagship projects: the AI Moonshot Challenge, launched at the Websummit under the motto: “A Sustainable Space for a Sustainable Earth”, with proposals focused on the promotion of sustainable Oceans and in a sustainable management of terrestrial resources and Space resources, using artificial intelligence. It is also reflected in the Agency annual conference, New Space Atlantic Summit, this year focused on “A sustainable Space for a Sustainable Earth”, that will take place already next week, on June 9th.
11. Portugal strongly supports the “Our Common Agenda” proposed by the UN Secretary-General and “a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations”, that also encompasses a “multi-stakeholder dialogues on outer space” for a peaceful, secure, and sustainable use of outer space. Portugal will actively contribute to the outer space dialogue and promote an international conference on the road to the **Summit of the Future** also addressing Space Traffic Management and Space Governance, to be hosted in Portugal in 2023.

Mr. Chair,

12. I conclude reaffirming Portugal's full commitment towards COPUOS, and its Subcommittees in particular, aiming at a fruitful cooperation for a peaceful and a sustainable use of space for people.

Thank you for your attention

Hugo André Costa

Portuguese Space Agency