

**UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Sixty-Sixth Session**

**Vienna, 31 May- 09 June 2023**

**Statement of the Delegation of Romania**

**Agenda item 4: General exchange of views**

Distinguished delegates,

Mister Chairman, Omran Sharaf, of United Arab Emirates, let me congratulate you, on behalf of the Delegation of Romania, on your efficient chairmanship and to transmit to you the support of my delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate.

We would also express our appreciation to the Acting OOSA Director, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his role in the achievements of this Committee, and to the staff of the secretariat, for the excellent and very professional activity.

Romania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union in all its components and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman, since the last session of the Committee space activities extended as volume and areas of coverage. Space systems are globally increasingly being recognized as critical infrastructure for planet Earth. The process of officially recognizing space as an area for critical infrastructures was initiated more than ten years ago by international organisations and several nations, including Romania.

Within those evolutions, we reaffirm our support for COPUOS and its Subcommittees as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. COPUOS is by far the only global forum where those features of our dynamic, evolving civilization can be considered and brought to global rules and consensus. We also recognize the important role of UNOOSA in supporting this work.

Romania as a European Union (EU) country and a European Space Agency (ESA) member state is participating to their programmes and applications. Romania,

through the Romanian Space Agency, develops its own space programme in concordance and complementarity with other international programs. By a strategy based on Science and technology, Services and Security the space activities are carried out in Romania by a variety of organisations, public and private, as institutes, universities, industry, SME's.

Mister Chairman, I will mention a few activities developed by Romania since the last session of the Committee.

I am pleased to report that in 2022, Romania has become the 16<sup>th</sup> country to sign the Artemis Accords initiated by NASA, affirming its commitment to a set of principles for cooperation in civil exploration and to further invest in Moon and Mars Exploration.

In 2022 the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) organised the Conference and Exhibition "Space and Security for Eastern Europe". Placed in the context of recent regional events, but also as a natural consequence of Romania's involvement in space security throughout the years, the event aimed to discuss the strategic national and European plans regarding space capabilities and critical infrastructures.

The Romanian Space Agency, in cooperation with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) organized so far a series of eleven Conferences on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures, the most recent one had the theme "Sciences, Services, Security" and took place on 4-5 August 2022 in Romania. The advancements of this topics and the skills developed in Romania led to the establishment of a ROSA Centre on Space Critical Infrastructures and Security, which is also supporting the UN-SPIDER regional support centre in Bucharest for disaster management.

Romania is participating in the European Space Agency's all major programs on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, Space transportation.

Romania recognizes space traffic management (STM) as one of the greatest challenges for the space sector. As part of our national efforts, the Operational Center

for Space Surveillance and Tracking is being hosted within the premises of the Romanian Space Agency.

The Romanian delegation, acknowledging the complexity of the issues at hand and the time constraints during plenary meetings, proposes a Conference Room Paper dedicated to assessing lunar coordination mechanisms within COPUOS. In light of this, the Romanian delegation cordially invites all Delegations to partake in a thorough examination of how to effectively coordinate lunar technical activities within the framework of COPUOS. Furthermore, the Romanian delegation kindly requests all Delegations to provide their valuable insights and recommendations on specific arrangements for lunar coordination, if applicable, during the upcoming Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session in 2024. The ultimate objective of this endeavour is to establish a common understanding and determine the subsequent steps to be taken at the 67th COPUOS session in 2024.

We look forward to participating and actively contributing to the work of COPUOS and its Subsidiary Bodies, including their Working Groups.

Mister Chairman, my delegation will ask you for taking the floor during the specific items of the Agenda.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your attention.