

Germany, Item 4

UNCOPUOS
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Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of Views

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The German delegation thanks you, Chair, for your service to the Committee and assures you of its continued full support. We appreciate the excellent work of UNOOSA under the leadership of the Acting Director, Mr. Niklas Hedman, not only in the preparation of this session, but also in fulfilling the many challenging tasks and mandates under the UN treaties and space programmes.

Space technology, data and applications are critical to digital services and our mobility on Earth. They play a central role in communication, navigation, timing and earth observation as well as environmental and climate protection. In this context, space technology and services are key to implementing the global agendas on sustainable development, climate change and disaster management.

The German government is currently developing a new space strategy, that will replace our last strategy of 2010. The focus is on the concrete benefits of space for all. I would like to briefly present some of the activities of the German space programme. Germany attaches great importance to measuring its space projects in terms of their contribution to social, economic and scientific objectives. Let me give you three concrete examples in this context:

- First, Germany is committed to promoting the use of space technology for crisis and disaster management. In addition to hosting the Bonn office of UN-SPIDER, we are continuously demonstrating new ways in which space technology can support relief efforts: The German-Austrian project "Artificial Intelligence for Emergency Response" (AIFER) was used in a disaster response exercise in April 2023, where satellite images were evaluated using AI to support first responders. The aim is to integrate the technology into the UN's International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, making an important contribution to the effectiveness of international relief efforts. Similarly, during a search and rescue

exercise in November 2022, DLR's Live Mapping System will transmit real-time situational awareness images to first responders.

- Second, in March 2023, the Cosmic Kiss mission science debriefing brought together more than eighty scientists in Oberpfaffenhofen. In line with the mission statement "Space for life on Earth", the German astronaut Matthias Maurer worked on 240 international experiments during his 176 days in space on board of the International Space Station ISS. Germany participated in 35 experiments, all aimed at finding sustainable solutions and solving major societal challenges while promoting international cooperation in space and on Earth.
- Thirdly, Germany continues to expand HYPERedu as part of the EnMAP science programme as a Capacity-Building measure in Earth Observation applications and services. The portal is hosted on the EO-College platform. In addition to learning materials, it includes a series of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The advanced MOOC 'Beyond the Visible - Imaging Spectroscopy for Agricultural Applications', developed in collaboration with LMU Munich, was published in December 2022.

We are pleased that a number of other examples will be highlighted in this session under agenda items 9 and 16, as well as in a technical presentation of the INNOSpace Space2Agriculture network.

Germany continues to support international programmes and efforts. To this end, we cooperate within ESA, the EU and 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). Further information can be found in our annual report on international cooperation activities.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

COPUOS and its two subcommittees remain unique platforms for the development of global space governance. Germany is committed to continuing the important constructive exchanges on key issues such as LTS, STM and space resources.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Germany attaches great importance to international cooperation and a multilateral approach in the peaceful uses of outer

space in order to ensure safe, sustainable and peaceful space activities in the long term. Thus, we look forward to constructive exchanges and hope to reach consensus on the arrangements of the 2024 International Space Resources Conference and continue to discuss topics for the 2024 LTS Workshop.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.