



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 66th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 31 May – 9 June 2023, Agenda Item 4 – General Exchange of Views**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon.

I would like to begin by reiterating our delegation's full support to you Mr Chair, and assure you of our full cooperation throughout this session. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the acting director Niklas Hedman and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (*UNOOSA*) for the excellent organisation of this meeting.

We welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as the new States members of the Committee.

Mr. Chair, your Excellences, and distinguished Delegates,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union (*EU*).

COPUOS exists to improve conditions for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation continues to severely hurt our common efforts in this regard. Finland stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and continues to firmly support Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity.

Mr Chair,

We recognize the importance of this Committee as an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on the scientific and technical, as well as policy and legal aspects on the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. On the other hand, discussions concerning the use of outer space for security purposes are more appropriately held in foras whose mandates focus on those issues.

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. We consider that the primary method to develop international space law and policy, as well as to tackle global questions and challenges, should be done through international and multilateral cooperation.

For instance, the issue of safety and sustainability of space activities is a growing concern to all space actors, and addressing space debris is critically important to the long-term sustainability of

space activities. Thus, we are pleased to see the continued exchange on these themes in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Similarly, we welcome discussions on legal aspects of space traffic management in the Legal Subcommittee. Finland is also of the opinion that exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources are best coordinated at the international, multilateral level, and we wish to express our appreciation for the work done in the Legal Subcommittee with this regard.

We encourage continued exchange and information sharing, between all the actors at all levels, for the peaceful exploration and for the safe and sustainable, intergenerational use of outer space.

Mr. Chair,

The themes of sustainable use of outer space and sustainable growth of the space sector, in particular the NewSpace economy, are key priorities of the Finnish space policy. There are currently 22 satellites registered in our national registry of space objects, all of which have been launched since 2017 when Finland became a space-faring nation. These are all small satellites operated by either scientific institutions or commercial companies.

Whereas this Committee serves the international community well to address topics relevant to safe and sustainable space activities, we consider COPUOS also the right multilateral forum to underline the importance of space activities and space-based services, including the role of space solutions in combatting climate change. Altogether, space capabilities are critical to the normal functioning of the entire society and important for realizing the sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chair,

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, taking into consideration also the effects of climate change that are pronounced in the Arctic.

We wish to actively engage with all delegations in assuring that space solutions keep helping us tackle such global challenges and that the potential of space is availed in a sustainable manner.

Thank you Mr. Chair, your Excellences, and distinguished Delegates.