



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN VIENNA**

**66<sup>th</sup> Session of COPUOS 2023**

**ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

**STATEMENT BY GREECE**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me first, to thank you, on behalf of my country, for having guided our work under challenging circumstances over the last year and wishing you success in your important task. We assure you of our continuous support to your work. We would also like to express our appreciation to the acting Head of the UNOOSA and COPUOS Secretary, Mr Niklas Hedman, and his team for their important work and precious assistance.

Greece aligns with the EU statement in condemning the unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Greece welcomes the two new members of our Committee, Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues,

We strongly believe that the five United Nations treaties on outer space and the relevant UN General Assembly sets of principles constitute the cornerstone of international space law and attaches great importance to their implementation.

Greece considers COPUOS and its two Subcommittees as unique platforms for an inclusive dialogue on space law and policy issues, for international cooperation in the

peaceful uses of outer space, including on the development of international space law, international norms, guidelines and best practices and is strongly committed to their task.

It is not by chance that the Committee's important role for global space governance was recognized by the UN Secretary General in the report "Our Common Agenda" and is further illustrated by its growing membership.

My country believes that international cooperation should, by all means, prevail over any use of force in space. We recognize, in this respect, the need for the international community to come together and discuss ways and means to reinforce space governance in the interest of maintaining a sustainable outer space for the benefit of present and future generations.

Greece welcomes the adoption by the UNGA of the respective Resolutions on "international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" and on "Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors," which call for a common understanding of how best to act to reduce threats to space systems in order to maintain outer space as a peaceful, safe, stable and sustainable environment, free from an arms race and conflict, for the benefit of all.

Mr Chairman,

COPUOS, through its Subcommittees, has proven its ability to deliver on its mandate. As an indication, the establishment of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the swift agreement on its mandate, terms of reference and methods of work has been *an important achievement of the Legal Sub Committee and a development well* reflected in para. 9 of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/76 on "International Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space".

We also welcome the engaging discussions within the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities at the recent 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee. We believe that the WG should be able to reach agreement on the organization of an international conference in accordance with the 2024 Workplan.

In this connection, we encourage Member States to consider the respective proposals, including the Joint Paper submitted at the current 66<sup>th</sup> COPUOS Session by Germany, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden and the UK "on the scope and topics of the International Space Resources Conference under the auspices of the United Nations in 2024."

On the same vein, Greece commends the positive discussion within the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (WG-LTS) at the recent

session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We are looking forward to contributing to the substantive discussions with regard to the implementation of the 21 LTS guidelines, capacity building and new challenges. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of keeping the issue of dark and quiet skies on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. There is broad cross-regional support to continue discussions and establish an Expert Group to develop practical solutions and address the unintended impacts of satellite constellations on astronomy.

Mr Chairman,

My country is strongly committed to the sustainability of outer space activities.

In 2020, under a new law, the national objectives of Greece in the Space domain include a) the strengthening of national security and defense, especially through the exploitation and development of Space infrastructure, b) the development of the national Space industry, c) the exploitation of Space data and the development of related applications and d) the support of research and innovation in the Space field. The Hellenic Space Center (HSC) plays the role of a National Space Agency for Greece.(((Since 2020, Greece has an operational Governmental Satellite Communications system, the “GreeCom”, which connects Ministries, the Parliament, foreign Embassies, civil protection authorities and other public agencies.)))

In July 2022, Greece strongly considering that capacity building in space law and policy plays an important role in maintaining the rule of law with regard to space activities, hosted successfully in Athens one of the major events of the space community, the 44<sup>th</sup> Scientific Assembly of the COSPAR. COSPAR Athens 2022 assembled a worldwide community of scientists dedicated to international cooperation in space research and proceeded to important conclusions.

In concluding, let me stress that Greece, will continue to intensively work for the promotion and deepening of international cooperation in the space domain, and the conduct of space activities in accordance with international law, as required by article III of the Outer Space Treaty.

**I thank you**