

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 14 – Space Exploration and Innovation
Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty Sixth session, Vienna, 31 May – 9 June, 2023

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Space exploration increases knowledge of the planet and universe. It advances innovative research that leads to breakthrough discoveries in science and technology that directly benefit people on Earth. The rapid evolution of activities in outer space, including the acceleration and variety of deep space exploration activities, means that it is more important than ever to continue to work through established rules or guidelines to ensure the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all. COPUOS remains the cornerstone for this important work.

The international community and the commercial space sector are gearing up for missions to the Moon and beyond. With dozens of missions planned for the Moon in the next decade, the international community should continue to work towards principles that will help guide those missions so that they remain safe and sustainable. The Artemis Accords principles are practical and flexible. The principles can be applied, as is, today or can be adapted, if necessary, to account for new technologies, discoveries and laws in the future. That is the advantage of non-binding principles at the early stages of any new activity. These principles are fully consistent with the outer space treaties and complement, rather than displace or amend, these treaties. The principles in the Artemis Accords do not require subscribers to disregard multilateral efforts or promote unilateralism and we welcome the growing number of members. On the contrary, the principles promote further cooperation, transparency and information exchange within COPUOS.

In particular, they stress *transparency* in sharing information regarding national space policies and the intent to *openly share scientific data* with the public and scientific community. As a number of planned missions involve activities and technologies not previously envisioned for deep-space exploration, it is important that the rules governing those activities provide sufficient flexibility to allow adjustments to make as a result of experience while still maintaining safety, security, and sustainability. It is for this reason that the Artemis Accords signatories are working together on developing the practical implementation of the Principles in the Accords for sharing within COPUOS.

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 14 – Space Exploration and Innovation
Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty Sixth session, Vienna, 31 May – 9 June, 2023

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Space exploration, innovation and discovery inspire the next generation. Canada celebrated the successful launch and return of the Artemis I mission in November 2022. We now have the entire country excited about the Artemis II mission that will see four astronauts, including one from Canada, fly around the moon to test deep-space capabilities that will support the eventual landing on the Moon. In April, NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced that Jeremy Hansen will represent Canada as the first Canadian astronaut to fly around the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis program. Set to launch no earlier than November 2024, it will be the first crewed journey to the Moon since the last of the Apollo mission in 1972.

The peaceful exploration and use of outer space is at an exciting juncture but the value of multilateral dialogue in this committee remains a constant.

Thank you for your kind attention.