

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 14 – Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee
Delivered by: Laura-Alexe Marcoux, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Seventh session, Vienna, 19-28 June, 2024

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada wishes to thank the Chair of COPUOS and the Chairs of the subcommittees for their ongoing efforts to guide the important work of this committee. Canada reiterates its support for COPUOS, its subcommittees and working groups, in which we have been participating since its inception.

Canada acknowledges COPUOS' ongoing instrumental role in developing the global governance for outer space activities. COPUOS has been successful in safeguarding the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all by adopting a consensus approach to decision-making, which has proven to be essential to advancing the work of the Committee and avoiding politicization of its work. In that regard, Canada would like to underline the importance of respecting the Committee, the work of the Secretariat and the views expressed by all member States. We wish to stress the long-standing practice of having a report that only presents the information and views brought forward by member States in plenary, or formal, meetings, where simultaneous translation is available, and discussions are recorded. The discussions happening in informal settings exist to advance the debate, enable transparent and frank exchanges, and permits COPUOS to work as a consensus body in formal plenary. We encourage all member States to express their views in the appropriate time and place to facilitate a report drafting process with less debate on procedure, and more on content.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada welcomes efforts by the Secretariat to organize the work of the Committee and subcommittees through the sequential consideration of agenda items. We encourage all delegations to be prepared to express views under the agenda items they wish to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue regarding issues relevant to space exploration. The exchange of ideas on scientific, technical, and legal issues is the best method available to the Committee to promote the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. We support the work of UNOOSA to post statements online, to support

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transparency and confidence building, and widen the reach of the Committee globally, including to youth and civil society passionate about international diplomacy. The Vienna spirit should be preserved, it served humanity well during our first steps in space exploration and needs to be the basis of our next steps into deep space.

Thank you for your kind attention.