

UNCOPUOS
67th Session, Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024

Agenda Item 14: Future role and method of work of the Committee

Statement by Germany

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

this Committee remains a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We appreciate the excellent work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in fulfilling multiple challenging tasks and mandates under the UN space treaties and programs, despite having limited resources. Under this agenda item we wish to share the following points today:

Firstly, we see a constant rise of important issues to be discussed by a growing number of member states and observers participating in the Committee and its two Subcommittees. Statements continue to serve as a central vehicle to share information and views on the various agenda items. It is our understanding that the COPUOS reports only reflect those views expressed in formal meetings under the respective agenda items or in formal WG meetings prior to the report adoption. Therefore, our delegation will continue to present its views on selected agenda items in oral statements in a concise manner. Additionally, both subcommittees invite written submissions on multiple aspects of their work and we consider these submissions present an excellent means to share information with other delegations as well as the interested international community. In view of the major tasks facing us, it is a very bad time not to "deliver" - also in view of the trust in and expectations of COPUOS that were expressed during the negotiations on the Pact for the Future in New York.

Secondly, we welcome the changes that have been made to the agenda of the two Subcommittees. Like other delegations, we see the need for prudent management of our agenda, also in order to make space for substantial working formats such as working groups, action teams and study groups. We use the opportunity to express our **support for the proposal made by the distinguished delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to merge the Agenda-items of the Legal Subcommittee on Space Traffic Management, Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation as well as Small Satellite Activities**. These items allow us to discuss the subjects of safe and sustainable use of outer space – topics, that are of importance

for us today and for generations to come. It is our view, that merging these agenda items would avoid repetition and allow us to use our limited session time for more focused exchange. We believe that the title for such a joint agenda item should reflect that all three topics are continued to be discussed under the merged item. This makes it slightly longer, but emphasizes the comprehensive nature and that no views are left behind - similar to the new LSC agenda item "Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity building, to promote their implementation".

Thirdly, we appreciate that steps are made to increase **coordination, interaction and synergies between the subcommittees on cross-cutting issues**, such as, through Conference Room Papers from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working on the Legal Aspects of Space Resources to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In the future, also the LTS Chair could report to the LSC and both WGs to COPUOS. In the past, we proposed under this agenda item to consider addressing cross-cutting issues by both Subcommittees and the Main Committee, as a means to allow for discussions of scientific, technical and legal aspects at the relevant subcommittee which are then reported to the main committee. COPUOS would then be in a position to ground its final deliberations on the work and expertise of both of its subcommittees. A first topic and testing ground for such integrated discussions could be “sustainable lunar activities”. Therefore, we support the Romanian proposal for the establishment of a Lunar Action Team, ATLAC, as a means to develop recommendations aimed at improving consultations related to lunar activities, considering the establishment of an international consultation mechanism, following the informal consultations on this proposal during COPUOS STSC, LSC and Plenary.

Finally, we welcome the proposal of the UNOOSA Director for a UNISPACE IV Conference and look forward to receiving more details about the conference, which we understand would be organized on the margins of COPUOS in 2027.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your attention.