

Portugal Statement
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space | 67th session | Vienna,
19-28 June 2024

Agenda Item 14, **“Future role and method of work of the Committee**

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Representatives,

In 2022, during the sixty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Portugal proposed to co-organize with the Office for Outer Space Affairs a conference on the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

During last year session of this Committee and following the publishment of the Policy Brief 7 “For all humanity: The future of Outer Space governance” from the UN secretary General, Portugal submitted a conference room paper (CRP.21) detailing the modalities of the conference having as a goal to provide contributions that can form an input to the Summit of the Future.

With that goal in mind and to foster a multistakeholder dialogue, the Conference was preceded by two preparatory virtual symposiums. The first symposium, addressed technical issues related to sustainability in outer space activities, was held from 27 to 29 of November 2023, and reported to STSC through A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.34.

The second virtual symposium, comprising sessions on the policy and legal aspects of sustainable space activities, was held from 11 to 15 of March 2024, and reported to the Legal Subcommittee by A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.33.

These preparatory symposiums fed into the United Nations/Portugal Conference on the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities was held in Lisbon, between 14 and 15 of May, also addressing the future of governance of outer space activities.

The conference report is presented to this COPUOS session trough document A/AC.105/1315, available in all official languages. We would like to highlight that the conference was attended by 260 individuals and 54

United Nations Member States registered to participate in the conference. This was also a great opportunity for UN Member States that are not yet COPUOS Member States to engage in discussions space related.

To consolidate all the inputs from the different sessions in a single document, a drafting group was established, that included members designated by some Regional Group.

At the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, a first version of the document was published as a non-paper. During that session, several interactions were conducted between Portugal, the Regional Groups, the Group of 77 and China and several Member States, aiming to stream views and wording suggestions.

The “Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space” is the result of all these interactions and is brought to this Committee as Conference room paper presented in CRP “A/AC.105/2024/CRP.”.

This Declaration, through six points, underlines the importance of ensuring that outer space remains a safe, sustainable, and inclusive domain for generations to come.

I happily convey that this Conference Room Paper is co-sponsored by

- 1) Australia
- 2) Austria
- 3) Belgium
- 4) Chile
- 5) Colombia
- 6) Costa Rica
- 7) Ecuador
- 8) France
- 9) Germany
- 10) Ghana
- 11) Greece
- 12) Italy
- 13) Morocco
- 14) Romania
- 15) Slovenia
- 16) Spain
- 17) Switzerland

- 18) United States of America
- 19) Uruguay

Tomorrow the updated list of co-sponsors will be uploaded.

We would like to thank Member States and stakeholders for their involvement and contributions in this journey and we trust that this wide multistakeholder outer space dialogue and the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space, can be of helpful assistance to Member States in the process leading to the Summit of the Future and most important, beyond it.

Also, during the conference in Lisbon, the Under Secretary-General Guy Ryder, launched the idea of organizing the 4th UNISPACE. Portugal supports the non-paper by UNOOSA regarding the organization of the UNISPACE IV in 2027.

Portugal also welcomes and supports the ATLAC initiative, hoping that it can proceed during this session as well the Quiet and Dark Skies as an agenda item.

Thank you for your kind attention.