



SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Statement under Agenda Item 14. *Future role and method of work of the Committee*

Sixty-Seventh Session of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Mister Chair, distinguished delegates, COPUOS now has 102 Member States, and a growing list of intergovernmental and non-governmental observers. This is a welcome development as it further solidifies this Committee as the principal forum in the UN system for deliberations on the peaceful uses of outer space, and on the extension and progressive development of the rule of law to outer space.

However, with its increasing size, COPUOS must remain an agile and responsive forum. On the basis of consensus and with the “Vienna Spirit”, COPUOS must discuss and deliberate on current and emerging issues in a productive and efficient manner, including at least in the adoption of reports and on the agreement on the creation of Working Groups and their mandates.

Each year, each subcommittee meets for two weeks, and this main Committee for only a week and a half. With this limited amount of time available to discuss a wide range of pressing matters on our agenda—now further constrained by the challenging financial conditions facing the United Nations—efficient and results-oriented contributions by Member states and permanent observers are of the utmost importance.

We take note of this agenda item as an opportunity to address these challenges, and encourage Member states to make proposals under this item which might serve to update the methods of work of the Committee to enhance its effectiveness and agility.

Topics to be addressed could include ways of streamlining the finalization of reports, the consideration of how the permanent observers could better support the deliberations and work of the Committee, and the consideration of ways and means of allowing more opportunities for structured engagement of COPUOS with the private sector while fully respecting the status of the committee as a forum of States.

And lastly, there may also be opportunities for more intersessional work, especially on matters that lend themselves to virtual and offline engagement by delegations.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates and observers, the Secure World Foundation looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve and sustain the continued peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you for your kind attention.



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