

Agenda Item 14 – Future roles and method of work of the Committee
Statement by Ryan Guglietta
June 26, 2024

Thank you Chair,

I would first like to express my delegation's thanks to UNOOSA and Director Holla-Maini for the successful and informative "Sustainable Lunar Activities Conference" last week. We support finding new and innovative ways to facilitate multistakeholder dialogues on the challenges we face in outer space and efforts to foster more interactive conversations. We'd also like to thank Romania for leading the effort to establish an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultations as well as the Republic of Korea's ongoing support for this initiative, which continues to help move it forward. We hope all delegations can put their differences aside and support the adoption of the proposal this session.

My delegation has also appreciated the robust conversations on how the Committee and its subcommittees discuss and address the challenges posed by the increasing number of space objects in orbit, and we thank the German, Japanese, and Argentinian delegations for their efforts in advancing this conversation earlier this year. We also welcomed the opportunity to participate, along with representatives from India and the European Union, in two productive space situational awareness (SSA) training events in June, which were part of the United Kingdom-funded "Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities" project. These events included practical demonstrations for spacecraft operators on resources to improve the safety of their operations.

Building upon these efforts, the United States was pleased to organize a side event on "Space Situational Awareness Activities and Global Coordination" last week, which underscored the importance of international cooperation among national and regional hubs providing SSA information and services to spacecraft operators, with governmental offerings augmented by a global commercial SSA sector.

The Committee should benefit from the latest research, practical experience, and scientific practice through wider engagement with non-State actors, including the private sector and scientific community. As we continue these discussions within the Committee, we would welcome the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs to use its unique convening ability to host additional discussions on space situational awareness and space traffic coordination, and for those discussions to feed into the UNCOPUOS STSC.

Additionally, as the number of space launches and satellites in orbit increases, coordination between this Committee and the governing bodies of other relevant elements of the UN system becomes increasingly important. In this regard, my delegation would welcome further discussions between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and UNCOPUOS on these matters to promote a shared understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities, as well as a way forward on addressing challenges that are best addressed by working together.

Chair, my delegation welcomes the recently released Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit, which aims to bring about meaningful improvements for gender equality in the global space community. We thank Canada and UNOOSA for hosting the most recent Space4Women expert meeting and look forward to participating in the upcoming session hosted by Kenya.

My delegation also welcomes the pending adoption of an agenda item at the STSC focused on Dark and Quiet Skies, and looks forward to actively engaging on this topic. We also thank Chile and Spain for their leadership in the Group of Friends for Dark and Quiet Skies.

My delegation appreciates the effort by many in this Committee to find ways to improve the efficiency of UNCOPUOS processes and procedures and welcomes the opportunity to explore new and innovative ways to do so. As we have recently seen, the path to consensus remains challenging, but my delegation remains committed to maintaining a cordial and professional atmosphere in the Committee, where we set aside political posturing and cynical tactics, to deliver practical solutions to advance international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Chair, my delegation also looks forward to participating in the upcoming “Summit of the Future” and working to ensure the “Pact for the Future” outcome document advances the security, safety, and sustainability of outer space through multistakeholder dialogues. Such a dialogue has the potential to reinforce UNCOPUOS’ unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space for current and future generations. We would also like to express our appreciation for the work of UNOOSA and Portugal in hosting the “Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” Conference in Lisbon earlier this year, and for Portugal’s development of the “Lisbon Declaration,” which pushes for greater cooperation and coordination in space by all actors.

Thank you Chair.