

## **United Kingdom**

### **Item 14 Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee**

#### **Statement:**

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Please allow me to set out the view of the United Kingdom on the future role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The United Kingdom has taken a leading role on the sustainability, security, and safety of outer space. Along with other delegations, we believe that COPUOS has a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability and peaceful use of the space environment.

We believe that COPUOS is an example of how to build constructive discussions about issues that affect us all; And which will define our common future. For these reasons, and to echo other Member States, we welcome the fact that the Committee continues to grow in terms of new Members and new observers. We look forward to hearing from Member States from across all regional groups, to understand their priorities and to understand our part in enhancing the cooperation and peaceful uses of Outer Space.

The UK has actively engaged in cross-regional discussions, here in Vienna, to better understand how we might utilise COPUOS in new, improved, ways. Our hope is to create the space for increased interaction between Member States, including through informal discussion, by creating room for our experts to speak to each other, and to consider new agenda items and the concerns of our new Members, whilst retaining the valuable discussions here.

We are pleased to see that we have a diverse range of observers represented at COPUOS and its subcommittees. The peaceful and sustainable use of outer space

does not concern governments alone. We share the view that we should do more to fully engage the private sector and the scientific community. We would encourage delegations to consider including non-governmental actors as part of their delegations throughout the COPUOS meeting cycle. We are pleased to have non-governmental representatives on our delegation at this session. We collectively agreed in the OMNIBUS resolution to “pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office”. The UK believes that sharing experience, ideas and creating a common vision, is one of the defining benefits of the multilateral system. Along with other delegations, we would also like to see greater gender parity and diversity of delegation.

Chair, the UK stands ready to engage in an active debate under this agenda item, to hear the ideas of all Member States; aimed at further improving the wonderful platform we have in Vienna; and to find new ways to discuss our common goal of finding ever more peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space. We believe that this would be of great value to all Member States and we are ready to engage constructively and in the spirit of openness.