

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 15 – Space Exploration and Innovation
Delivered by: Laura-Alexe Marcoux, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Seventh session, Vienna, 19 June - 28 June, 2024

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

In the last year, we saw an incredible acceleration of capabilities bringing humanity back to the Moon and beyond. We would like to congratulate Japan, India and the United States for their successful missions to the lunar surface in the last year, and for their innovation and leadership in this new era. Now more than ever, there is a need to safeguard space accessibility, sustainability for the benefit of all, and continue to work within established rules and guidelines to ensure the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. COPUOS remains the cornerstone for this important work.

Chair,

Canada is gearing up its national space exploration capacity. In 2023, Canada announced \$1.1 billion to continue its participation in the International Space Station (ISS) up to 2030, where for more than 22 years, space explorers have lived and worked continuously in low Earth orbit. Since its launch, the ISS has been visited by more than 250 people and will soon be home to another Canadian, with Colonel Joshua Kutryk was selected to participate in a long duration flight to the ISS that will launch no earlier than the beginning of 2025. Colonel Kutryk will be the first Canadian to fly under NASA's Commercial Crew Program aboard the Boeing CSA-100 Starliner. We also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate NASA for the successful first crewed test flight of the Starliner to the International Space Station. This is an important milestone in advancing the Commercial Crew Program.

Canada also continues the preparation for Artemis II, the first crewed mission around the Moon in half a century. A Canadian astronaut, Colonel Jeremy Hansen, will be part of the mission, making Canada the second country to have an astronaut fly around the Moon. The mission will enable the four astronauts on board to test and validate several vital elements such as mission planning, system performance, crew interfaces and guidance and navigation systems. Ultimately, this mission will prepare for humanity's

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return to the Moon's surface with the Artemis III mission. Canadian astronaut Jenni Gibbons was assigned as a backup astronaut on the Artemis II mission. Jenni will be part of a team of key contributors who will define and validate the astronauts' training and processes for future Moon missions.

In 2023, Canada also announced funding for Canada's science utilization of the Lunar Gateway and the development of the Lunar Utility Vehicle as a first step towards Canadian participation in international lunar exploration to support lunar surface logistics and science. The Lunar Utility Vehicle will strive to leverage innovation, highlight interoperability, and support Canadian industry. More recently, in 2024 the government announced \$8.6M for the Lunar Exploration Accelerator Program (LEAP) to help accelerate the development of new technologies. LEAP empowers Canada to leverage space to solve everyday challenges, such as enhancing remote health care services and improving access to healthy food in remote communities, while also supporting Canada's human spaceflight program. The focus on the future of Human Space Flight ensures Canada will continue to be an active, visible and sought-after partner in upcoming international space missions such as the Artemis missions, the Lunar Gateway, and the continuation of ISS, which sustains and strengthens our leadership internationally.

Chair,

As humanity is preparing to establish long-term presence on the Moon and engage in even more ambitious space missions, the costs, complexities, and risks of supplying resources from Earth are becoming a limiting factor. Space resource activities offers a potential solution for living and working in space. In January 2024, the Canadian Space Agency launched, in parallel with the United Kingdom Space Agency, the Aqualunar Challenge to develop new technologies aimed at purifying water on the Moon for human deep-space missions. Water is not only essential to sustain life but is also a critical resource for space exploration to support the production of food, oxygen, and rocket fuel.

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The processes developed could also help advance water purification here on Earth and better understand how to ensure sustainability of space activities.

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Multilateralism is at the core of deep space exploration. Canada hosted the Artemis Accords Workshop from May 21 to 23, 2024 to discuss how to implement the principles of transparency, data-sharing, and interoperability within the Accords, amongst others, and how to bring this work forward into COPUOS. It is important that the principles governing deep space exploration are shared and understood by all to ensure safety and sustainability. We wish to thank all of the countries that participated in these discussions. We would welcome discussion with non-signatories to ensure this conversation is as broad as possible. We also encourage all signatories to share their progress within COPUOS as the central body for discussing the peaceful uses of outer space. The peaceful exploration and use of outer space is at an exciting juncture, and we must work together to ensure its sustainability for the benefit of all, including future generations.

Thank you for your kind attention.