

UNCOPUOS
67th Session, Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024

Agenda Item 15. Space exploration and innovation.
Statement by Germany

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

We thank UNOOSA for organizing the first UN Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities on the margins of the present COPUOS session. We note with appreciation that the conference brought together various actors in a constructive and inclusive manner to exchange ideas and potentially identify synergies for peaceful and sustainable lunar exploration. We believe that the think-tank approach used at the conference contributed to an insightful exchange, which also has great value for capacity building in the context of sustainable lunar exploration.

COPUOS is the central multilateral forum for the further development of space law. We continue to support the development of global space governance for activities on celestial bodies on the basis of the UN Outer Space Treaties here at the UN.

The exchanges at the Conference seemed to show common ground among the Artemis Accords and ILRS signatories that space activities should be conducted in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner. In particular, information exchange was emphasized as important means for international cooperation, avoiding interferences and enabling appropriate international consultations. In this context, Germany reiterates its support of the Romanian proposal for an Action Team for Lunar Activities Consultation. Besides information exchange, speakers highlighted the need to ensure due regard and the protecting the environment on and around the Moon among others.

These shared objectives are a positive starting point for reaching common understanding here at COPUOS, particularly in our work on an initial set of principles in the LSC Space Resources Working Group.

It is important for us to share the experience and expertise gained through the Accords with the COPUOS community. We were therefore particularly pleased to have actively contributed to the conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.