



## Permanent Mission of Austria

to the United  
Nations in Vienna

**AUSTRIA, ITEM 5**  
**General Exchange of Views**  
**67<sup>th</sup> COPUOS (19 – 28 June 2024)**  
**Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Chair, let me congratulate you as well as the other members of the bureau on your election and thank you for chairing this session of the Committee. Let me assure you of our full support to bring this session to a successful conclusion. Further I would like to thank UNOOSA-Director Aarti Holla-Maini and her team for preparing this session.

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement of the European Union, including the condemnation of Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

Chair, this session takes place in the run-up of the preparation of the Summit of the Future in September of this year in New York. According to Our Common Agenda, one of the High-Level tracks is dedicated to Outer Space Dialogue. A multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space in preparation of the summit of the Future has been proposed. It should pave the way to global solutions to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities.

We therefore support strong references to Outer Space in the Pact for the Future, amongst others to reaffirm the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. We encourage other Member States also to do so.

On the same issue, we thank Portugal for organizing the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Conference, dedicated to the preparation of the Summit of the Future and beyond, which took place in May in Lisbon. Austria participated in the Conference as well as in the drafting team of the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space which we thoroughly support.

Furthermore, the UN/Austria World Space Summit in December 2023 under the title “Space 4 Our Common Future” has also been dedicated to raising interest and awareness amongst Member States for this opportunity to further outer space governance. One of its topics was how to meaningfully engage youth in the policy and decision making process as well as realising the potential that considerations of Future Generations withhold. This effort has been manifested in the Joint Side Event "Space - Youth - Future Generations", co-organized by the Government of Austria, Space Generation Advisory Council and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, during the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

This year, the World Space Forum titled "Sustainable Space for Sustainability on Earth" will take place from 3 to 5 December 2024 in Bonn/Germany. In this regard, we wish our German colleagues all the best for this important event.

Chair, Austria supports the Strategy of UNOOSA, centred around the five pillars Space Sustainability, Space4SDGs, Space4Climate, Space4Developing Countries and how to engage the broader space ecosystem on relevant issues and topics. We are looking forward to its work plan with actions and results, which will help Member States to support UNOOSA with its implementation and to reap its impacts all over the world. We will inform in detail about our existing cooperation with UNOOSA in further statements and assure our ongoing and full support for its strategy.

Moreover, Austria supports the Romanian proposal to establish an action team to study a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee and thanks Romania for the informal discussions on this issue, while respecting the mandate of the *Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities*. We think it is high time to start these more detailed discussions.

We also strongly support the German proposal to establish, through the Legal Subcommittee, a Study Group to research perspectives of space traffic management, and we are looking forward to further discussions on this issue.

Chair, Colleagues, while we regret that it was not possible to adopt a substantive report of this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, let me finally highlight the importance of the working groups of the Subcommittees and their valuable work. We explicitly wish to thank them and UNOOSA, which contribute so much to the realisation of the important mandate of this Committee. We believe that the Committee and its Subcommittees would benefit from a formalization of its rules of procedure, so as to increase clarity and acceptance of the rules the Committee gave itself. Let us work together to deliver on Space Sustainability and the important work here at COPUOS.

Thank you!