

Germany, Item 5

UNCOPUOS
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Agenda Item 5: General Exchange of Views

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair,

On behalf of the German delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election and assure you of our full support. We wish you, your team and all of us a constructive session and stand ready to support you wherever we can.

Furthermore, we would like to echo the EU's condemnation of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine which is still costing lives at this very moment.

Distinguished delegates,

Space applications play an indispensable role for the sustainable development on Earth, as we have acknowledged when consenting the Space2030 Agenda. Climate change is a global phenomenon, affecting people worldwide, and Germany is giving high priority to efforts to mitigate it. In this respect, Germany continues to support international programmes and engages in different cooperation.

In addition to hosting the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn, the German Space Agency at DLR took over the chairship of the "International Charter Space and Major Disasters" from EUMETSAT and the Canadian Space Agency. To mark the start of the German chairship, DLR organised a conference in Bonn from 22 to 26 April. The assumption of this role emphasises our commitment to the use of space technology in disaster relief. We are proud to support disaster relief worldwide and thus contribute to overcoming global challenges. This collaboration enables us to respond more quickly and efficiently to crises and thus save lives.

We also cooperate with international partners at Member State level and with ESA, the EU, EUMETSAT and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). Cooperation is key to reach space activities for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind. We consider diversity as one of our strength. We need the knowledge of diverse groups of people, including women and girls, to help maximize the innovation potential of space, while preserving its peaceful uses. Thus, we welcome the UNOOSA

Space4Women project and thank Canada for hosting previous events as well as Kenya for hosting this year's edition.

We can only benefit from space activities here on Earth, if we keep the space environment safe, sustainable and peaceful. Germany's new Space Strategy identifies Space Traffic Management as one of its key projects and states that "within the framework of the UN, we call for the establishment of an international STM system". COPUOS has achieved significant results on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in the past, including through the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation and the LTS guidelines. These were important outcomes from our discussions in Vienna. We share the concern, that other fora will act, if COPUOS does not take steps towards answers to the challenges posed by the ever-increasing number of objects in Outer Space. We need to ignite a debate about the future governance of space traffic. Therefore, Germany proposes to establish, at the Legal Subcommittee, a Study Group to study perspectives of space traffic management. It is meant as a tool to facilitate discussions amongst a limited number of experts on the related legal questions that come with increasing space traffic and congested orbits. It is meant to build capacity at the LSC and to strengthen the dialogue with the STSC, which already has stepped up with the agreement of the 21 LTS Guidelines. The study group would have the task to present a study, not a decision. During LSC, this novel format was the subject of further elaboration and discussion, together with other proposals, during an informal meeting at the invitation of Argentina, Germany and Japan. We invite the Committee to welcome further consultations, with a view to revisiting those ideas at the 64th session of the LSC, in 2025, taking into account the ongoing work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including the work of its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

We also congratulate UNOOSA on the successful hosting of its first "Sustainable Lunar Activities Conference", in which the Director-General of our space agency actively participated. Germany, like other signatories of the Artemis Accords, considers COPUOS to be the central forum for the further development of international space law and is committed to continuing the important constructive exchange and cooperation with signatories and non-signatories for the benefit of peaceful, sustainable and safe space exploration.

Finally, we would like to thank all the delegations who contributed their perspectives to the Summit of the Future process. We also thank Portugal for hosting the UN/Portugal Conference: "Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities", which brought together stakeholders to find a global consensus on the areas contained in the Secretary-General's Policy Brief. We congratulate our Portuguese colleagues for drafting the Lisbon Declaration. As co-facilitator, Germany hopes that Member States will adopt an ambitious, action-oriented Pact at the Summit. We want to offer an opportunity for discussion of the space-related aspects of the 1st revision of the Zero Draft, and therefore invite you to a side event on 26 of June from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. We see the Pact of the Future as a timely opportunity to give momentum to our discussions here at COPUOS, to advance international space governance, and to strengthen our shared commitment to the safe, secure and sustainable use of outer space.

We will conclude this discussion at the 2024 World Space Forum from the 3rd to the 5th of December in Bonn. If you are interested to learn more about the current planning and your possibilities to participate follow the Technical Presentation delivered on 26 June by René Kleeßen, Director at the German Space Agency. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bonn for WSF2024.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Office for Outer Space Affairs plays an important role in promoting international cooperation in outer space and in implementing the relevant international legal framework. Although UNOOSA's tasks have increased, we have not seen that the Office's resources have kept pace. Here and in the relevant bodies in New York, Germany is committed to ensuring that UNOOSA receives the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate in the future. Failure to do so could have detrimental effects on the functioning of the legal framework for space activities, especially at a time of growing challenges to space governance, when legal certainty is more important than ever.

We look forward to constructive exchanges based on the Vienna-spirit and hope to reach consensus on the important decisions to be made at the current session and express our gratitude to all contributing this common endeavour.

Thank you for your kind attention.