

Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE, the UN and other International Organizations in Vienna

67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 19-28 June 2024

Agenda item 5: General exchange of views

Statement by Hungary

Mr Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

I am glad to be here at the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The COPOUS meetings are important opportunities to discuss significant issues regarding the peaceful uses of outer space.

I would like to congratulate Portugal and UNOOSA for organizing the UN/Portugal Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Conference in Lisbon this May, which addressed critical issues from the Secretary-General's Policy Brief 7: "For All Humanity – the Future of Outer Space Governance" supporting "Our Common Agenda". Hungary participated in the event and supported the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space.

Hungary firmly believes that the management and sustainability of space-related activities, including space traffic management, space debris, space resources require urgent action by the international community.

In light of the rapid evolution of technology and the related space economy, it is imperative to increase the dialogue with Member States. Space is accessible to practically almost all states, and to a growing number of non-state actors.

Our freedom, security, economies, and the daily running of our societies depends on safe, secure and autonomous access to space. Our dependency on space systems and services is increasing making us more vulnerable to irresponsible and threatening behaviour. In this "New Space Age" transparent space activities are of strategic importance.

Hungary considers it particularly important today to promote and intensify multilateral efforts for the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, which cannot be postponed due to the growing number of commercial activities in space and the growing threats in space posed by space debris.

Hungary reaffirms that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees play a primary role in discussing current and emerging challenges and for reaching consensus leading to the development of internationally agreed legal regimes, in particular on space debris, the coordination of space traffic and space resources, including governance.

Hungary strongly advocates for responsible behaviour in outer space. Strengthening the safety, security, sustainability and peaceful nature of outer space activities is a key priority, and is in the common interest of present and future generations. We call for a comprehensive approach to addressing challenges, risks and threats to the peaceful use of outer space, in compliance with international law, as reflected in our national space strategy.

The peaceful use of outer space should be at the centre of all space activities. Geopolitical tensions of Earth are expanding into the field of outer space and regrettably, the peaceful use of outer space is encountering challenges. It is vital to keep outer space an arena for global cooperation, not an arms race.

We must preserve our planet and outer space for future generations. Therefore, it is more important than ever to strengthen the involvement of the younger generation in national and international space activities and in promoting the results of space activities.

Thank you.