

Esteemed Chair, Distinguished Delegates, and Colleagues,

On behalf of Dr. Fredrick Jenet, Vice Chair of the International Committee of the National Space Society, I would like to congratulate Dr. Sedky on his appointment as the Chair of this committee and thank director Holla-Maini and her team for their efforts in putting together this meeting.

The National Space Society (NSS) is honored to participate in the 2024 session of COPUOS. Our mission to promote space exploration and development aligns closely with the objectives of UNOOSA and COPUOS, aiming for the peaceful and cooperative use of outer space for the dramatic betterment of humanity.

The National Space Society actively supports UNOOSA and COPUOS through various international initiatives. Each year, we engage thousands of students worldwide, from both developed and developing countries, in designing sustainable space habitats. This capacity building outreach impacts numerous countries, including but not limited to Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay. Through programs such as the International Space Settlement Design Competition, the Space Settlement Contest, and the Space Settlement Design Tournament, we encourage innovation and teamwork, inspiring these young minds to pursue careers in the space industry. Over the past four decades of running these programs, we have numerous personal accounts of how these efforts have changed lives and inspired global citizens to not only think and dream about the peaceful uses of outer space and space development, but actively participate. A recent addition to our programs includes the Rothblatt Space Settlement in Our Lifetime Business Plan Competition, open to all, that fosters entrepreneurial approaches to space settlement and development, motivating participants to create viable business plans for space development and future space communities.

Our members lead various initiatives that significantly impact space exploration and policy. For instance, For All Moonkind works to preserve human heritage in space, the Beyond Earth Institute shapes policies for sustainable space development, Expanding Frontiers fosters innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector, and The Overview Round Table facilitates high-level discussions on space policy and ethics. In addition, we are assisting other observers and member states as they consider the possibility of an 18th sustainable development goal focused on space.

The International Space Development Conference (ISDC), our flagship event, brings together space professionals, academics, government officials, and enthusiasts to discuss and promote space exploration and development. This year, the NSS International Committee introduced a Space4All track in the program agenda, focusing on UN and COPUOS-related efforts. The goal was to inform the approximately 1,000 participants from around the world about the important work being done by this committee and to promote the concept of peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space. Due to its popularity, this track will likely become a regular part of the conference's agenda, and we hope to see many of you there as speakers in the future.

In line with our commitment to advancing space technology, NSS is funding a comprehensive report to review the current state of technology for space solar power. This report aims to assess advancements and identify opportunities for harnessing solar energy in space to benefit Earth. This effort will significantly add to the extensive body of conference room papers and technical presentations that NSS has provided to this committee over the past two decades.

The National Space Society strongly supports the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) as proposed by Romania and the Republic of Korea. The importance and timeliness of ATLAC cannot be overstated as humanity collectively embarks on a sustained return to the Moon. NSS is ready to support ATLAC both from a technical and policy perspective in its mission to develop recommendations for safe, sustainable, and transparent lunar activities, ensuring that the Moon's exploration and utilization are conducted for the benefit of all humankind on a politically and economically sustainable basis.

As observers, we are dedicated to providing expert background and information to assist all delegates. We are eager to learn more about how we can further support the committee's work.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this esteemed body. We look forward to continued collaboration and progress in our shared mission. NSS remains dedicated to promoting the peaceful use of outer space and the betterment of humanity. Through our initiatives and the efforts of our inspired members, we aim to advance space exploration and development, ensuring that the benefits of space are available globally.

Thank you.