

Statement by Norway to the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - agenda item 5: General exchange of views

Chair,

Norway wishes to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Please rest assured of Norway's support. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair, Mr. Omran Sharaf of the United Arab Emirates, for his outstanding work in leading the Committee during the last period. As always, we thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent work in preparing this session.

This committee and its two subcommittees constitute the primary forum to develop norms and guidelines for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Given the immense rate of growth and development in the space domain, it is vital that COPUOS remains proactive and focused. In order to stay relevant, it must strive to obtain consensus on the many pressing issues on its agenda.

The rapid development in the space domain also calls for close interaction and coordination between the two subcommittees to promote the development of norms and guidelines for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in an efficient manner.

COPUOS should also be mindful of the relations between its work and that of the First Committee of the General Assembly. The efforts should remain distinct but complementary.

Norway also welcomes the new UNOOSA Leadership Strategy and its key priorities. Norway is currently considering how best to cooperate with UNOOSA and contribute to the strategy.

Chair,

Among Norway's priorities are the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability, space as an asset to combat climate change, the Space 2030 Agenda and the up-coming Summit of the Future.

On space resources, we look forward to discussing an initial draft of recommended principles for space resource activities next year. We would also like to thank Belgium and Luxembourg for co-hosting the expert meeting in March collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference that was held in Vienna.

On Long-term Sustainability, Norway hopes consensus can be reached on the basis of the Chair's non-paper distributed after the informal meeting of the working group in May.

| On space traffic management it is more relevant than ever to both preserve the space environment and ensure safe operations. It is also a topic of global nature. Norway supports the suggestion made by Germany at the Legal Subcommittee, to establish a study group of experts to come up with a proposal on how to move forward on space traffic management.

Chair,

Allow me also to present an update on some of the latest developments on Norway's space activities:

- On 2 November last year, Andøya Spaceport was officially opened. Given its location far north on our coastline, the Spaceport will offer launches to polar orbits. The first launch is planned for this year.
- The Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM) is a partnership between Space Norway, the Norwegian Armed Forces, Inmarsat and the US Space Force. It consists of two satellites, and is scheduled to be launched next month. The mission will provide broadband coverage in the Arctic, north of the 65th latitude.
- The Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority is the designated national space authority in Norway. Its responsibility to supervise space activities has been extended to include payloads launched from Norwegian territory, as well as maintaining the national Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.
- Norway has, from the beginning of this year, established a civil responsibility for space surveillance and tracking, and space traffic management, at the Norwegian Space Agency. The arrangement will be evaluated after a 3-year period. The arrangement entails ensuring that national needs are met within space surveillance and tracking and space traffic management, as well as handling of warnings nationally, including in emergency response settings.
- The Norwegian Space Agency hosted the International Space University's (ISU) Executive Space Course in May this year, which was co-organized with ISU.

Norway condemns Russia's illegal full-scale war against Ukraine. Norway calls for Russia to cease hostilities and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Chair