



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Poland
to the United Nations Office and
the International Organizations in Vienna**

**67nd session of the United Nations Committee
on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Agenda item 5 General Exchange of Views
Statement by the Head of the Delegation of Poland
Amb. Dominika Krois, Permanent Representative
Vienna, 21st June 2024**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair¹, on your election and I wish you every success in conducting the 67th session of COPUOS in the collaborative “Vienna Spirit”.

We are grateful to Mr. Omran SHARAF for his excellent leadership as well as his dedication to COPUOS activities throughout his term as Chair.

I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and her staff for their tireless efforts to ensure effective management of the sessions of COPUOS and its Subcommittees.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make some additional remarks in its national capacity. As we continuously advocate for full respect of international law, including human right and humanitarian law, Poland remains deeply concerned by humanitarian crises and ongoing conflicts in the world. Poland maintains its unequivocal condemnation of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and violations by Russia of all the norms and principles of the international law, including the UN Charter. We express full support for and solidarity with Ukraine.

In the ongoing annual cycle of work, we were able to find consensus on many issues, despite geopolitical tensions. In this context, we would like to emphasize the importance of respecting the mandate of COPUOS what will allow us to address urgent, crucial outer space issues and cooperate in a good faith.

¹Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky (Egypt)

On many occasions Poland has stressed its commitment to the multilateral diplomacy at the COPUOS and its Subcommittee forum. Throughout the 65 - year history of the COPUOS, for 23 years the Legal Subcommittee was under the Polish leadership. Currently, the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities has been under the Polish chairship.

We are grateful for your trust and we would like to underline that COPUOS should still play a central role in a space diplomacy and space governance due to the fact that the largest challenges confronting outer space today are of an intrinsically multilateral nature.

Furthermore, taking into account the dramatic growth of the space actors, including private entities, our responsibility is to reinforce the centrality of COPUOS and of the Outer Space Treaties. They should remain fundamental framework for the whole international community and for all stakeholders undertaking space activities.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The actions carried out now may have implications over the coming decades. For this reason Poland has reinforced its engagement in outer space issues over the ongoing annual cycle. During the 63th session of the Legal Subcommittee the Polish Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, Ambassador Andrzej Misztal and the Vice- Chair Prof. Steven Freeland committed to submit until January 2025 an initial set of recommended principles for space resource activities. It is a great challenge and a very complex task.

We highly appreciate the proposal of Romania on a Consultative Mechanism on Lunar Activities. I have the pleasure to announce that we are ready to join an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation as soon as the team has been established. We hope to work together to preserve the Moon's natural environment and sustainable character of lunar operations.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me now inform you on several activities of Poland undertaken with our partners.

On the basis of the Agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, the Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences is constructing the instrument on the NASA-led Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe mission in the frame of GLOBal Wind Structure Programme.

Poland has recently signed several agreements with the European Space Agency as a result of which the Polish astronaut will be transported to the International Space Station by US company and will test technologies and conducted experiments developed by Polish space entities. Moreover, he will perform educational activities for schoolchildren and students in our country so as to promoting space science and technologies among our young.

The Polish Space Agency signed the declaration *"Zero Debris Charter. Towards a safe and sustainable space environment"* and continues to develop the National Satellite

Information System for receiving, storing, processing and sharing satellite data together with the necessary infrastructure.

Poland participated in Artemis Accords 2024 Workshop which took place in Canadian Space Agency Headquarters in Montreal. We shared a common understanding on non-interference of space missions, interoperability, registration of space objects, relationship between COPUOS and Artemis Accords.

I would like to emphasize that Artemis Accords signatories continuously recognize COPUOS as the paramount multilateral forum for outer space activities. Since Artemis Accords set out a framework for cooperation in the civilian exploration and peaceful use of the Moon, Mars and other celestial bodies, we believe that they may contribute to the development of existing norms of international space law.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Colleagues

We have at our disposal such exceptional instruments of multilateral cooperation as COPUOS and its Subcommittees. It is our responsibility towards future generations to ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, to preserve outer space natural environment by the cooperative, responsible governance of space activities and by the development of norms adopted by consensus.

We reiterate that COPUOS, having a great merits in laying down fundamental outer space principles, norms and guidelines, should remain an unique platform for international cooperation on outer space issues. Even if we have different values, history, culture and economy, we share a common goal of a long – term sustainability of outer space activities, including rational use of its resources. Thus, we are obliged to preserve the centrality of COPUOS and we must not allow COPUOS position to be weakened.

Thank you for your attention.