

**UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**Sixty-seventh session**  
**Vienna, 19–28 June 2024**  
**Statement of the Delegation of Romania**  
**Agenda item 5: General exchange of views**

Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt, let me congratulate you on behalf of the Delegation of Romania on your chairmanship and convey the full support of my delegation for the successful accomplishment of your mandate. We also extend our congratulations to the first Vice-Chair, Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, and the second Vice-Chair, Mr. Hasan Abbas of Pakistan, for their appointments.

We warmly welcome and congratulate the UNOOSA Director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini for her crucial leadership, as we navigate the evolving challenges and opportunities in space, and also for the successful organization of the UN Sustainable Lunar Activities Conference 2024. This OOSA conference, the most important in recent years, with an impressive participation, proved the importance of the highest-level approach to collaboration in the field of Lunar issues, showed a spirit of mutual understanding and the desire for international cooperation, as well as the importance and the agreement for Romania's proposal to organize the Action Team on Lunar activity consultations.

Romania reaffirms its strong support for COPUOS and its Subcommittees, recognizing these as essential platforms for fostering international collaboration in the peaceful uses of outer space. We acknowledge the significant role of UNOOSA in supporting these efforts.

As an active member of both the European Union and the European Space Agency, Romania participates in all major space programs and initiatives on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, and Space transportation. In the same time, the delegation of Romania fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union at this recent session.

Recent advancements in Romania's space sector demonstrate our commitment to global space collaboration. I would like to mention here that, in the fall of 2023, the Romanian Space Agency signed a cooperation agreement with the Luxembourg Space Agency.

We are proud to highlight our ongoing commitment to the Artemis Accords and our active involvement in discussing lunar sustainable exploration.

At the last session, the Romanian delegation cordially invited all Delegations to partake in a thorough examination of how to effectively coordinate lunar technical activities within the framework of COPUOS. In this respect, Romania is proud to propose the establishment of **an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)** within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The Action Team will develop recommendations aimed at improving consultations related to lunar activities. One such recommendation aims to the establishment of an international mechanism on lunar activities which targets mainly operational activities in the cislunar and lunar environment. This mechanism will engage COPUOS member states in a significant theme for space cooperation in the coming decades, ensuring that space activities remain peaceful and beneficial for all humanity.

Romania presented this initiative during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, and organized informal consultations to gather feedback and build support for the proposal. This proactive approach underscores Romania's commitment to advancing multilateral discussions that promote the sustainable exploration of the Moon.

To further refine the proposal for the mandate, terms of reference and method of work as well as for the final consent on the establishment of ATLAC and the steps forward, Romania has scheduled additional informal consultations on June 20<sup>st</sup> and on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The document under discussion, which includes the proposals of the various member states made in accordance with the requests sent to their missions in Vienna in May and as a result of the discussions in the online consultations organized with the support of OOSA on June 5<sup>th</sup>, is published on the session website as CRP 12. We would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Korea for co-sponsoring the document. We cordially invite all interested delegations to participate in these sessions, which will be held from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in Meeting Room M3. With this occasion, Romania invites other delegations to co-sponsor this document, highlighting our collective commitment to fostering international cooperation in lunar activities. The final proposal will be presented as an improved CRP on behalf of the Romanian delegation together with the co-sponsoring member states.

Regarding **space traffic management (STM) and space traffic coordination (STC)**, Romania recognizes it as a major challenge for the space sector globally. As a member of the EU SST Partnership, through the Operational Center for Space Surveillance and Tracking hosted by the Romanian Space Agency, Romania collects data from our network of telescopes and radar, contributing to the EU regional Space Situational Awareness. Romania contributes with sensor capabilities, data processing, and services for decision-making. Moreover, we are enhancing our surveillance and tracking

infrastructure with optical and quantum technology upgrades.

With these in mind, Romania welcomes and supports Germany's proposal for a Study Group on Perspectives for Space Traffic Management and is considering sending an expert to participate, highlighting our commitment to developing international solutions for managing the space traffic.

Romania extends its heartfelt gratitude for the diligent work and commendable efforts put forth in developing the **draft resolution on the United Nations-designated International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defense 2029**. Our delegation fully supports this initiative and recognize the importance of raising global awareness about asteroids and the collaborative efforts to mitigate potential hazards posed by near-Earth objects. Romania would like to join the group of states co-sponsoring this resolution, emphasizing our commitment to fostering international cooperation and ensuring the sustainable use of outer space. We look forward to actively contributing to this initiative and collaborating with our international partners to achieve its goals.

We look forward to participating and actively contributing to the work of COPUOS and its Subsidiary Bodies, including their Working Groups.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, for your attention.