

Agenda Item 5: UK General Statement at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 67th session, 19 to 28 June 2024 (603 words)

Thank you, Mister Chair.

First off, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment to Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We wish you every success. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Mr. Omran Sharaf and the United Arab Emirates for their excellent chairmanship of COPUOS.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Before the United Kingdom makes its general statement, let me first clearly state that Space science and exploration missions, and commercial activities, rely on co-operation and collaboration between states. Russia's violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and its ongoing war against Ukraine has had a significant impact on this essential cooperation between space faring nations and is damaging international co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space. We call again on Russia to end this war and withdraw from Ukrainian territory.

Now, let me move on to our general statement.

Space is an essential part of all our lives. Space technology underpins key communications infrastructure, climate change observation and global navigation. We have made excellent progress through COPUOS to advance the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and the United Kingdom is proud to participate in this committee.

The UK attaches great importance to the Long-Term Sustainability of the Outer Space Environment, and so we are pleased we have been able to fund important work with UNOOSA to raise global awareness on the importance of space sustainability and foster related capacity-building services for emerging space-faring nations. We were pleased to begin phase four of this project earlier this month with the first UK-funded training event on space situational awareness. We have also funded projects on the registration of space objects, promoting transparency and a better understanding of national registration practices. The UK would again like to thank UNOOSA for their support in these endeavours.

In May the UK government was pleased to publish our Space Regulatory Review. This report was developed collaboratively with the space, finance and insurance sectors, as well as independent regulators.

The report focused on three core objectives: identifying regulatory gaps and opportunities; prioritising safety, security, and sustainability; and maintaining UK leadership in modern space regulations.

In March we also published a Space Industrial Plan that set out how to unlock growth in the UK space sector and develop resilient space capabilities. The plan set out five priority capability goals to address economic and geopolitical challenges.

We are also pleased that the UK has a new career astronaut (Rosemary Coogan), a para-astronaut (John McFall) and a reserve astronaut (Meganne Christian). Following a

rigorous selection process and record UK Space Agency investment in the European Space Agency (ESA), this was announced last November at the ESA Council at Ministerial Level.

As a founding member of the Artemis Accords, the UK would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new signatories, which now stands at [43] countries. We would like to thank Canada for recently hosting the second workshop for the Artemis Accords. Our shared international vision facilitates sustainable human activity on the Moon and Mars and will enhance peaceful relationships between nations.

We would also like to thank and commend Canada for their funding of the Space4Women toolkit. This work is important in promoting equality in the space sector in national, regional, and local contexts.

Finally, we would like to thank you, Chair, and we extend our thanks to the UNOOSA Director Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat for all their work. We look forward to a productive session.