

**Canada Statement**  
**Agenda Item 13 – Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee**  
**Delivered by: Ashlyn Milligan, Global Affairs Canada**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Sixty-Eighth Session, Vienna, June 25 – July 2, 2025

Chair,

In recent years, we have seen an exponential growth in the initiatives being undertaken within COPUOS - meaning the consideration of how this Committee carries out its work is more important than ever.

The multilateral architecture is under significant pressure to deliver practical solutions despite facing significant fiscal constraints. Canada fully supports COPUOS' instrumental role in developing global governance for outer space activities. We must ensure that the Committee retains this role well into the future.

COPUOS needs to adopt innovative approaches for addressing the potential opportunities and challenges posed by the growth of the private space sector and the evolution of novel space missions. To do so, Member States must direct COPUOS to allocate greater time to these topics. To this end, Canada welcomes the progress made in recent years to streamline the Committee's work and tackle emerging issues, such as through the Dark and Quiet Skies agenda item and the establishment of ATLAC. However, we must find additional ways to create opportunities for meaningful and active exchanges in plenary sessions. This Committee must adapt to do more, given the demand to take on new discussions and drive towards concrete outcomes in the areas identified in the Pact for the Future.

Canada believes that the regular eight-day COPUOS session is insufficient for our work and that consideration should be given to re-balancing allotted days to ensure COPUOS has the time available to advance its agenda. In this regard, we propose that the LSC be shortened by two days, allowing those days to be allotted to the COPUOS plenary.

To make the most effective use of our time, Canada supports three-minute time limits for statements with full versions to be posted online and proposes that this approach be adopted permanently. Technical presentations are foundational to sharing information and supporting capacity-building. However, reforms are needed to ensure maximum impact. We recommend

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grouping technical presentations thematically and scheduling them before the start of the session to maximize attendance and foster active participation.

Most importantly, Canada believes that adopting streamlined, action-oriented reporting for COPOUS will create space for better and more substantive plenary exchanges when interpretation services are available. We should focus our reporting on action-oriented decisions, recommendations, and consensus areas for the Committee. Video recordings of the sessions and the ability to post statements online already provide an accurate record of views expressed during the session, and it is unnecessary to duplicate that in the report.

Finally, Canada supports holding a high-level UNISPACE IV segment in 2027 during the first two days of COPUS, followed by the remainder of the session, with scope for additional elements to be added should funding be secured. This will be an opportunity to commemorate, consolidate and take forward existing COPUOS work streams and raise high-level awareness of the Office and COPUOS.

It is important that we work constructively to advance discussions on UNISPACE IV so that we can decide to move forward at this session, even if full decisions on objectives and deliverables will evolve between now and 2027.

Thank you.