

SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Statement under Agenda Item 13.
Future role and method of work of the Committee.

Sixty-eighth Session of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

June–July 2025

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates, this Committee faces a number of accelerating challenges to space governance, including space debris, space resources, lunar activities, and planetary defense.

Newer and urgent challenges include space traffic coordination, the preservation of dark and quiet skies, and addressing risks posed by uncontrolled atmospheric re-entries.

With 104 current member States of this Committee, and applications for membership from five additional states before us this year, COPUOS is larger than ever—a welcome sign of its role as the central multilateral forum for space governance. But any committee this large faces challenges brought about merely by its size.

Meanwhile, the UN's liquidity crisis has reduced the time and resources available to this Committee. Speaking frankly, this Committee faces too many issues and has too little time.

Looking across the many agenda items and working groups at COPUOS, it must be said: international space governance is struggling to respond to these mounting challenges in a robust or efficient manner. The power to address this is in the hands of the member States. As an active, long-standing observer, we pose a number of questions for reflection.

For example:

- Can COPUOS, under its current working methods, address the diverse range of space governance challenges it faces?
- Do our current agenda items accurately and efficiently reflect the actual priorities before us?
- How might COPUOS modify its current working methods to address more efficiently the diverse range of space governance challenges it faces?

- Recognizing the challenge of reaching consensus among an ever-increasing number of Members of the Committee and the rising costs of in-person meetings, how might our current methods of work be adapted to make better use of intersessional and online methods of work to advance our work and build consensus during the inter-sessional periods?
- And finally, are there ways to streamline the report drafting and adoption process, which currently takes on average 1 ½ days of the in-person session with live interpretation services?

We must recognize the seriousness of the moment—and the need for results. Encouraged by the Vienna Spirit, this Committee has demonstrated that unity and constructive action is possible. We hope that the questions we have posed will serve as food for thought in the deliberations on the future role and methods of work of the Committee.

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

