U.S. Statement
UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Agenda Item 14 - Space Exploration and Innovation
Statement by Kevin Conole
June 27, 2025

Thank you, Chair. Across the United States and throughout the world, tens of thousands of people are building an enduring legacy of deep space exploration that will be felt by generations to come and go well beyond the microcosm of our planet. We are in a new age, where nations explore the cosmos to better understand our place in the universe. Nations see and enjoy the benefits of going to space, both directly and indirectly – they see the scientific advancements, how their national capabilities can grow, and how space serves as an economic catalyst.

Chair, with the Golden Age of America, we are on the verge of a new Golden Age of science and discovery as well – and we will not fail. This new age calls for better consultation and increased collaboration, both across national borders and between governments and commercial industry. To this end, we appreciate this Committee's work under the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). The goal of the Action Team is to enhance consultations for activities on or around the Moon. One of the ways we can do this is by improving information sharing while enhancing transparency and building cooperation among nations and the private sector.

Chair, 55 countries have now signed the Artemis Accords, which established a common framework to guide space exploration cooperation. The Accords are grounded in the Outer Space Treaty and other agreements including the Registration Convention and the Rescue and Return Agreement. They embody best practices for responsible behavior that NASA and its partners have supported, including transparency, interoperability, and the public release of scientific data.

Chair, we have embarked on a historic effort of human space exploration. NASA's Artemis Campaign demonstrates our ability to push the boundaries of human achievement. Artemis II will soon launch an international crew around the Moon. By accelerating next-generation commercial systems and expanding international cooperation, we can truly unlock humankind's ability to explore among the stars. The James Webb Space Telescope is just one example of our space exploration efforts. Skilled scientists and engineers from 14 countries contributed to Webb, which in May 2025 discovered particles of water-ice in the frozen Kuiper Belt. NASA is leveraging human space exploration in low-Earth orbit with commercial and international partners to enable missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. The International Space Station serves as a springboard for developing a space economy while providing a platform to harness the groundbreaking scientific and technological advances that are only possible through experiments in the microgravity environment of low-Earth orbit. The United States continues to invest in the future of space science and exploration, both for the benefit of the American people and the international community.

Chair, the science, technology, and knowledge we gain from exploring the Moon and Mars will not only expand humanity's reach but also fuel innovations that improve life here on Earth. We must continue to work together in this historic effort and inspire the next generation to reach even further.

Thank you, Chair.