



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN VIENNA**

**68th SESSION OF COPUOS**

**ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

**STATEMENT BY GREECE**

**Mr Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

Since this is the first time we are taking the floor on this agenda item, we would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, as well as Mr. Facetti-Fernandez and Mrs Al Khalifa, on your election and wishing you success in your important task. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director of the UNOOSA, Mrs Aarti Holla-Maini, for the skilful guidance of the Office.

Greece aligns itself with the EU Statement and would like to add the following in its national capacity:

***Mr Chairman,***

Over the past decade, humanity's access and operations in outer space have fundamentally changed and the driving factors behind these changes are likely to accelerate in the coming decades. This change presents us opportunities and risks and we need to develop further the existing governance, so that we can sustainably accelerate innovation and discovery with a view to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Greece strongly believes that the UN treaties on outer space and the relevant UN General Assembly sets of principles constitute the cornerstone of international space law. In this context, COPUOS and its Subcommittees are the main fora for the development of international space law, guidelines, confidence building measures and international cooperation.

*As to international cooperation, we believe that it should, by all means, prevail over any use of force in space and we welcome, in this regard, the adoption by the UNGA of Resolution 79/87 of 2024 “on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space,” which, among others, expresses its serious concern about the possibility of an armed race in outer space and reaffirms the significance of international cooperation for a space free from an arms race and conflict, for the benefit of all.*

***Mr. Chairman,***

COPUOS, through its two Subcommittees, has proven its ability to deliver on its mandate. We welcome, in this regard, the progress made so far within the WG on the Long Term Sustainability of outer space activities, as well as within the Legal Subcommittee’s Working Group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and encourage them to advance their discussions. In this context, we would like to stress that Greece believes that the legal aspects of space resource exploration and exploitation must be regulated by international law. Past legal experience in this respect includes the administration of the international seabed by the International Seabed Authority established by the UNCLOS, the frequency spectrum management regime of the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) and the legal regime governing Antarctica (under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty). This long-established solid international legal practice, adopted within the UN system, part of which is also COPUOS, can serve as an inspirational tool and guide in developing a legal framework for space resource activities.

***Mr. Chairman,***

Allow me, at this stage, to give you a brief insight into my country’s recent endeavors in the space sector :The Greek space Law, which establishes the legal framework for the authorization of space activities has been revised in 2024, in order to provide for a third party liability (TPL) amount, requested by the satellite operators, as a ‘mandatory’ condition. Through this legislative approach, a more flexible regime, based on a proportionate TPL amount, depending on the characteristics of the mission, has been initiated, thus encouraging the growth of the small satellite sector. Greece has recently enacted a specific national regulatory framework describing the procedures to be followed by companies and other organizations for the management and processing of satellite filings that are submitted through Greece to the ITU. My country is also steadily proceeding with the implementation -in collaboration with ESA- of its National Microsatellite Program that includes the construction and launch of 13 satellites of various types, covering identified national needs, such as natural disaster monitoring, security and environmental protection. The upcoming fleet of Greek satellites consists of (a) 7 microsatellites with optical payload and capabilities of very high resolution

imaging, (b) 4 dedicated thermal microsatellites with sensors that monitor thermal emissions and can detect fire fronts under thick smoke or during the night, and (c) 2 high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) microsatellites that can observe the ground and sea surface under thick clouds and dark.

***Mr. Chairman,***

In concluding, let me assure you that Greece, will continue to intensively work for the promotion and deepening of international cooperation in the space domain, and the conduct of space activities in accordance with international law, as required by article III of the Outer Space Treaty.

**I thank you**