

## U.S. Statement

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UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item 13 – Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee

Vienna, Austria, June 30, 2025

Chair,

This Committee has the opportunity to make immense strides in facilitating the safe and sustainable exploration and use of space this session.

Advancing the United Arab Emirates delegation's proposal on an SSA expert group, the German delegation's proposal on a Space Traffic study group, and finalizing the ATLAC workplan would demonstrate the relevance and impact of UNCOPUOS. These proposals benefit all nations by keeping outer space safe and sustainable. We urge all delegations to embrace the "Vienna spirit" and find a way forward.

My delegation also supports the continued streamlining of our agenda and working methods, and we believe there are ample opportunities to reform and improve the work of this Committee. This is especially true in the face of the liquidity crisis and the possibility that we will be confronted with shortened sessions for the foreseeable future. Member States should take a hard look at consolidating agenda items within the Subcommittee and Committee and agreeing to STSC, LSC, and Plenary formats on a more enduring basis rather than continue to grapple with these simple realities. We support the proposal by Canada to look critically at the use of meeting entitlements by COPUOS and its subcommittees and agree that one or two days of support services could potentially be shifted from LSC to the Plenary in order to preserve its ability to complete important work.

We also agree that the Committee must focus on results-oriented solutions for the ever-evolving space sector to remain relevant and impactful. Just as

the space environment is constantly evolving, so too must this Committee. The Committee cannot achieve its mission without access to the latest research, innovation, practical experience, and scientific knowledge that comes from wider engagement with non-State actors, including the private sector and scientific community. We urge the Committee to find ways to more directly integrate non-governmental actors into its information gathering and analytical work, while protecting the role of Member States in making final recommendations and decisions within the Committee's mandate. We also welcome the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs to use its unique convening ability to host additional UN Space Bridge events and find new opportunities for robust engagement with non-government space actors.

Chair, we also share the views expressed by many delegations that the dilution or undermining of UNCOPUOS must be avoided, including by the creation of unnecessarily duplicative mandates in other UN fora, including those in New York, Geneva, and Montreal. This would undercut the recognized technical, policy, and legal expertise of UNCOPUOS and its subcommittees in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Unless these and other concerns are addressed within the Russian Federation's "Space Science and Technology for Promoting Peace," we remain concerned about the resolution. Such duplication would also place further strain on smaller delegations.

Chair, we would also like to express our appreciation to Italy and Morocco for facilitating discussions on a possible UNISPACE IV event. While there are promising ideas within the current proposal, there are also outstanding questions regarding the potential outcomes, concrete deliverables, and financial implications of the event. At a time of budgetary uncertainty and the liquidity crisis, it is essential that we have a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the costs associated with a potential UNISPACE IV, as well as its outcomes and deliverables, before we determine a path forward.

Thank you Chair.