

National Space Society Statement to UN COPUOS 2025 – General Exchange of Views

Distinguished Chair, Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address this body on behalf of Dr. Fredrick Jenet, Vice Chair of the International Committee of the National Space Society (NSS). NSS is a global nonprofit dedicated to the peaceful exploration, development, and settlement of space, serving as a bridge between scientists, commercial innovators, policymakers, and the public. We have proudly served as a permanent observer to COPUOS for 21 years.

We commend the outstanding work of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, including all its staff, in facilitating the Subcommittees and this meeting. Amid global challenges and financial constraints, their efforts make this important dialogue possible.

Founded nearly 50 years ago, NSS now reaches over 50,000 individuals in more than 100 countries, including members, digital subscribers, and followers. Through our members' media platforms and outreach, our collective impact extends to millions around the world.

Our *Ad Astra* magazine, which highlights developments in space science, technology, and policy, was made available to delegates last week. We're delighted to report that every copy was picked up—often faster than we could restock. While no copies remain at this time, we will be sure to bring a larger supply to next year's meetings so that more delegates can enjoy the latest issue.

We are especially proud of our educational and entrepreneurial programming. Each year, over 30,000 students worldwide participate in NSS-sponsored design contests and technical challenges. This year, a team from Saint Sava National College in Bucharest, Romania, earned the grand prize in the Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Design Contest and presented at our International Space Development Conference (ISDC).

Through our partnership with Blue Origin's Club for the Future, we have invested nearly one million U.S. dollars into expanding STEM opportunities—particularly for disadvantaged and underserved communities.

Our Rothblatt "Space Settlement in Our Lifetime" Business Plan Competition, supported by Sirius XM founder Dr. Martine Rothblatt, empowers startups building technologies for sustainable space infrastructure and habitation.

We also convene global space leaders through the ISDC and the Space Settlement Summit. These events foster cross-sector dialogue on technology, policy, and humanity's long-term future in space. This year's ISDC keynote was Jared Isaacman, financier and mission commander of *Polaris Dawn* and *Inspiration4*, whose remarks inspired the next generation of space pioneers.

At this 2025 session, we are submitting two Conference Room Papers. The first, "**Benefit Sharing of Space Development and Space Resource Exploitation**," offers a framework to align commercial growth with equitable access to space benefits. The second, "**Disposal of the**

International Space Station and Future Large Space Objects,” addresses responsible deorbiting and the potential for orbital recycling markets.

These contributions reflect NSS’s broader commitment to inclusive and sustainable space governance.

In closing, we reaffirm our support for this Committee’s vital work and warmly invite all delegates to the **2026 International Space Development Conference** in Washington, D.C.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.