

Statement by Norway to the 68th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - agenda item 4: General exchange of views

Chair,

Norway wishes to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this 68th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Please rest assured of Norway's support. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair, Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt, for his outstanding work in leading the Committee during the last year.

As always, we also thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the able leadership of Director Holla-Maini for their excellent work in preparing this session. In that regard, the growing gap between UNOOSA's expanding mandates and its limited financial and human resources should be addressed.

We are pleased to see that the membership to UNCOPUOS is steadily increasing. In that respect, my delegation welcomes the new members to the Committee: Djibouti and Latvia.

Chair,

The topic of space traffic management is gaining increased importance. Norway is a co-sponsor of the paper by Germany on a "Proposal for a Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic" and hope the Committee will be able to approve the establishment of such a study group under the Legal Subcommittee. Furthermore, we also support the establishment of an Expert Group on SSA under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as proposed by the United Arab Emirates.

Norway expects that the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability will be able to make substantial progress on the draft final report and the annex in its meetings during this session of the Committee.

Regarding the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, Norway is pleased with the progress made during this year's Legal Subcommittee, and look forward to receiving the updated draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities in July.

We are pleased to announce that Norway, on the 15th of May, signed the Artemis Accords, thus becoming the 55th signatory State of the Accords.

This month, Norway also signed the Declaration of Interest for a Space4Ocean Alliance at the UN Ocean Conference in Nice.

In conclusion Chair, allow me to present a few updates on Norway's latest space activities.

On the 14th of January, the maritime monitoring satellite NorSat-4 was launched.

On the 30th of March the German company Isar Aerospace launched its rocket Spectrum from Andøya Spaceport in Northern Norway. This is the first orbital rocket launched from Continental Europe. Despite the short journey of the Spectrum rocket, this marks the beginning of a new era in Norwegian and European spaceflight.

In April we had the first person in space wearing a Norwegian flag on her arm. Jannicke Mikkelsen flew on the mission Fram2. This is the first human spaceflight mission to explore the Earth in a polar orbit.

And lastly, last week the proposal for a new Norwegian space law was presented to Parliament. The new law will facilitate space activities that contribute to business development, innovation, and the peaceful exploration of outer space with due regard to the environment and sustainability. The law will require that activities carried out in a responsible and safe manner, in accordance with Norway's national security interests.

Thank you Chair.