

U.S. Statement
UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Agenda Item 4 – General Exchange of Views
Statement by CdA Solomon

Thank you, Chair. The United States congratulates you on your election and we look forward to working with you this session.

Chair, 2025 has already been a year of firsts for the United States. In March, we welcomed the milestone achievement of the first fully successful commercial mission to make a soft-landing on the Moon by the Blue Ghost lunar lander. The mission delivered ten scientific and technology experiments to advance our collective understanding of the lunar environment and reaffirmed the trailblazing nature of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services, or CLPS, program. We were pleased to submit an Article XI filing to the UN on this mission, and several others, to underscore the importance of transparency and further the principles of the Artemis Accords, which welcomed its newest and 55th signatory, Norway, on May 15.

Expanded human spaceflight capabilities are making space more accessible than ever before. Just [X] days ago, the Axiom 4 mission launched four astronauts, from Hungary, India, Poland, and the United States, to the International Space Station, where scientists from thirty-one different countries helped plan sixty scientific studies and activities. We also saw the first crewed spacecraft enter a polar retrograde orbit, allowing astronauts to fly over Earth's poles for the first time. These advances continue to lead to untold benefits that help lift up all nations.

These activities, along with the impressive achievements cited by many other delegations in this room today, underscore the dynamic innovation and economic growth that our civil and commercial space sectors are driving around the world today. These accomplishments – and the speed with which space capabilities are changing today – also reinforce why it is essential for this Committee to respond to modern challenges and

opportunities in outer space. We cannot hope to utilize the untold benefits that satellites, large satellite constellations, and other space assets provide if we fail to address the pressing challenges we face. Whether it is orbital debris, space traffic coordination, space resource utilization, or a host of other topics, this forum plays a critical role in helping our civil and commercial space sectors operate safely, sustainably, and responsibly.

To that end, my delegation welcomes the progress of the space resource activities working group, the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultations, or ATLAC, and the long-term sustainability of outer space. We are also encouraged by the promising discussions on space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and urge delegations to advance substantive work on these topics. With the Committee advancing so many critical initiatives, it is important to ensure that we do not overextend ourselves or use our limited time to pursue efforts that are outside of UNCOPUOS' mandate and expertise. Further, we must ensure our work focuses on the immediate needs of all space operators and maintains UNCOPUOS's relevance as the center of global space discussions. The United States continues to reaffirm the importance of addressing security-related aspects of space activities in the disarmament and international security fora, not UNCOPUOS.

Chair, in closing, while the number of obstacles and challenges we face may seem daunting at times, I am confident that this Committee has the capabilities necessary to meet the moment. However, we must ensure that UNCOPUOS is willing and able to adjust to the changing space landscape and modernize its procedures, practices, and agenda to better address the rapid changes in the peaceful uses of space. We should embrace more streamlined, substantive discussions and find new and innovative ways to ensure all space actors, whether they are government, academic, or commercial, can offer their perspectives in this forum. New entrants into outer space bring innovative ideas, new perspectives, and new opportunities for cooperation. This Committee has a massive responsibility before it, and we must work together to ensure that it can deliver.

Thank you.