

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 5 – Ways and Means
Delivered by: Ashlyn Milligan

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Eighth Session, Vienna, June 25 – July 2, 2025

Thank you Chair,

As global societies deepen our reliance on space-based technologies to provide crucial services, outer space is taking on an increasingly central role in ensuring our shared prosperity and security. The increasingly congested and contested space environment highlights the need for the international community to come together to establish measures to ensure the safety, security, and sustainability of outer space. The current context of heightened geopolitical tensions further underscores the critical importance of a strong multilateral framework to maintain international dialogue on the ways and means of preserving the security of outer space.

In this context, Canada was disappointed with the lack of progress at the first meeting of the new Open-Ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in all its aspects. Despite the clear mandate provided by the United Nations for this Working Group to engage in discussions on both legally binding and non-legally binding measures to enhance space security, the Group's April proceedings failed to progress as a result of the Russian Federation's withholding of consensus on an agenda. This tactic of obstruction is a waste of time and resources, and the mandate in the UNGA decision 79/512 needs to be respected so we can proceed to substantive discussions in July.

In these discussions, Canada will continue to support the development of norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviour in space. A behaviour-based approach maintains flexibility in the face of rapidly changing technologies and supports the fostering of mutual trust and understanding among space actors. Indeed, a widely accepted normative framework for responsible space behaviours provides the best opportunity to prevent conflict in outer space and a strong foundation for measures which can evolve into binding international law.

Chair,

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 5 – Ways and Means
Delivered by: Ashlyn Milligan

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Eighth Session, Vienna, June 25 – July 2, 2025

Canada would additionally like to draw attention to Russia's proposal for a draft resolution entitled "Space science and technology for promoting peace". Canada notes with concern that this draft resolution fails to recognize the dual-use nature of many space-based technologies. Moreover, as the core idea of this resolution is one related to space security, Canada would suggest that this resolution be considered in a suitably dedicated forum. There is an important distinction between discussions on space security that take place in Geneva-based disarmament forums and those on the peaceful uses of outer space at COPUOS; a distinction mirrored in the UN General Assembly's First and Fourth Committees.

Chair,

Canada will continue working to ensure a safe, secure, and sustainable outer space environment, for the benefit of all states and our shared prosperity.

Thank you.