

U.S. Statement

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UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item 5 – Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful
Purposes

Vienna, Austria, June 25, 2025

Chair,

The United States remains committed to maintaining the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. We call on all States to refrain from actions which might have widespread and irreversible impacts on the outer space environment, including destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests.

We also recall the obligation of all States Parties to comply with the Outer Space Treaty, including the obligation not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, the United States was pleased to join with 90 other members of this committee in support of General Assembly resolution 79/18 “Weapons of mass destruction in outer space.”

Chair, the United States recognizes there are distinct and complementary efforts in this Committee and UN disarmament fora — including the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, and the First Committee of the General Assembly. These mandates also do not prejudice the specific and distinct role of the Security Council regarding the maintenance of international peace and security in outer space.

The United States will continue to raise security implications of dual-use space objects and relevant space security concerns in disarmament and

international security fora, as they are appropriate venues to address such threats. We also note that the deliberations on certain space-related activities in governing bodies of UN specialized agencies, such as the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization, can have implications for both this Committee and discussions in disarmament and international security fora.

As we acknowledge the distinct mandates for space issues among elements in the UN system, the United States again notes that some Committee efforts, such as the guidelines for orbital debris mitigation and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, complement and contribute to enhancing space security and stability.

Chair,

In this regard, the United States was pleased to join with over 90 members of this Committee in supporting UN General Assembly decision 79/512, which establishes an Open-Ended Working Group on the “Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in all its aspects” (PAROS OEWG). We commend Ambassador Carlos Foradori of Argentina for his leadership as OEWG Chair.

The United States urges all members of UNCOPUOS to participate constructively in the second session of the PAROS OEWG next month in Geneva. The PAROS OEWG, along with ongoing discussions at the Conference on Disarmament, would serve as a more appropriate forum for substantive discussions on issues such as the dual-use aspects of non-governmental space capabilities. The United States stands ready to engage on these issues in Geneva. It is up to all states to adopt a balanced agenda to guide the working group’s deliberations through 2028.

Finally, in carrying out its mandate for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, this Committee advances both universalization of the four core space treaties, as well as voluntary, non-legally binding best

practices and guidelines for the full range of governmental and non-governmental space activities conducted for peaceful purposes.

As such, the United States will continue to uphold and advocate for UNCOPUOS's position as the premiere venue for the promotion of international space cooperation and the study of related issues toward the maintenance of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Chair, I would also note that my delegation cannot support the resolution "Space Science and Technology for Promoting Peace," including its attempt to establish an agenda item in the UN Fourth Committee.

Thank you Chair.