

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY-  
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE  
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

**TO BE DELIVERED**

**BY**

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CHAIR OF THE AFRICA GROUP AND PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF BURKINA FASO**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2025**

## ITEM 5: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

**Mr Chair,**

1. On behalf of the African Group, please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer space. The Group would like to assure you of its full support and cooperation and wishes to thank your predecessor, for his outstanding leadership and dedication to a successful conclusion of the previous session. *(Agreed ad ref)*
2. We would also like to thank Ms. Aart Holla-Maini, Director of the Office for Outer Space for her opening remarks, and the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session. *(Agreed ad ref)*
3. The group aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China. *(Agreed ad ref)*

**Mr Chair,**

4. The African Group attaches great importance to the work of this committee in enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and its benefits to all nations. *(Agreed ad ref)*
5. The African Group stresses that international cooperation in space exploration and the use of space technology applications remains a priority for the African continent and the Group's participation is guided by the established principles of outer space activities, namely, the principle of exploration and use of outer space on the basis of equality, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all. Consequently, it is imperative to promote equal, non-discriminatory access to outer space, irrespective of levels of socio-economic or scientific development and should be cognizant of the needs of developing countries. *(Agreed ad ref)*
6. The Group acknowledges the critical role the Committee of Peaceful Uses of Outer space and its two subcommittees play in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and in the utilisation of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development. The Group is cognizant of the fact that the benefits derived from outer space activities are linked to achieving the Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and aspirations contained in Africa's blueprint for socio-economic development, Agenda 2063. *(Agreed ad ref)*

**Mr Chair**

7. Recognizing the critical role of space in addressing developmental challenges, the African Union developed a Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) with a focus towards developing a coordinated African space process as part of the scientific leg of the African Agenda 2063. (Agreed ad ref)
8. The African Group calls upon UNCOPUOS Member States, particularly developed countries to extend benefits derived from outer space activities and provide capacity building and technical assistance to assist them in strengthening capacity in the space sector and effective implementation of countries Space Programmes. (Agreed ad ref)

**Mr Chair,**

9. The Group welcomes the progress made in the Working Group on Space resources and reiterates its call for greater coordination at the international level to ensure the continued peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, the moon and other space objects to ensure that such activities are carried out in accordance with international law and for the benefit of all. (Agreed ad ref)
10. The Group also welcomes the progress made in the Working Group Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space activities in carrying out the work plan for the period 2022-2026 and working towards the implementation of the guidelines aimed to promote safety, sustainability, and security of activities in outer space. (Agreed ad ref)
11. The Group welcomes the initiatives of the Chairmanship of Morocco to Organised a side event during this session of COPOUS entitled “Celebrating African Space Development: Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Global Space sector”. (Agreed ad ref)

**Mr Chair,**

12. In conclusion, let me reiterate the commitment of Africa towards the peaceful uses of Outer Space. To this end, African States will continue to raise awareness to the important role of mobilizing resources to support space science and technology in Africa’s socio-economic development. (Agreed ad ref)

**I thank you.**