



68th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

25 June – 2 July 2025

Statement by Australia

Agenda Item: 4 – General exchange of views

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

Australia warmly welcomes you, Mr Rafiq Akram of Morocco, as Chair of the Committee for 2025. You have Australia's full support.

We extend Australia's sincere thanks to Mr Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt for his leadership of the Committee in 2024.

Australia also commends the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for their continued support of the Committee.

We welcome Djibouti and Latvia as new members of the Committee.

Condolences

Chair,

Australia was saddened to learn of the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal of Poland, Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under the Legal Subcommittee.

Ambassador Misztal's contributions to the work of the Committee have been extensive.

We express our condolences to the delegation of Poland, Ambassador Misztal's family, and all who knew him.

Commitment to international law

Chair,

As a founding member of the Committee and a State Party to the five United Nations space treaties, Australia's enduring commitment to and respect for international law compels us to again draw attention to Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. Australia continues to condemn Russia's aggression, which is a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Space traffic

Chair,

The increasing number of activities in outer space presents an opportunity and a challenge. Australia sees value in discussing both governance and technical aspects of this issue.

Australia was pleased to co-sponsor the proposal of Germany to establish a Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic under the Legal

Subcommittee, as discussed at its recent session. We also support progression of the proposal of the United Arab Emirates to establish an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; and look forward to future discussions.

Sustainability of space activities

Chair,

The long-term sustainability of outer space is important to Australia, and we are undertaking practical steps to implement the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines).

Australia also supports the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the able leadership of its Chair, Mr Umamaheswaran of India. We look forward to further productive exchanges on the draft report, including on the potential recommendations to be included in the final report of the Working Group to be presented to the sixty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Complementary to these efforts, through the Australian Space Agency (the Agency), the Australian Government is developing an Australian sustainability of space activities policy to consider the environmental and social issues and opportunities surrounding the sustainability of space activities in Australia. It

aims to support the long-term viability of the space sector, so current and future Australians can continue to benefit from space services.

In 2024, the Agency held public consultation to inform the development of the policy. The Agency received responses from individuals and organisations across industry, academia, government, and the wider public, and is considering this feedback as it continues to develop the policy.

International Astronautical Congress 2025

Chair,

Australia will host the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Sydney, from 29 September to 3 October 2025. The 76th IAC aims to provide a platform to promote global cooperation in shaping the future of space exploration.

The theme of this event is ‘*Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth*’, which covers space-based applications for Earth, sustainable space activities, and sustaining life off Earth. We welcome Member States and Permanent Observers to join us in Sydney later this year.

Closing

Chair,

Australia notes with concern the negative and ongoing impact of the liquidity crisis on the operating budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the

subsequent impact this has on activities that the Office undertakes as requested by Member States. In this regard, Australia appreciates efforts by Member States and the Secretariat to find ways to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the meetings of the Committee and its Subcommittees, particularly in light of the growing membership cohort and increase in space activities.

This includes exploring ways to optimise our time and resources, such as in relation to the adoption of the draft report. It is important for the Committee to remain focused and constructive. While we regret that budgetary restrictions have negatively impacted on the provision of interpretation for this session, we welcome ongoing opportunities to explore reasonable adjustments so that our methods of work remain sustainable.

We also support diversity of views, including from non-governmental stakeholders, and opportunities for these to be provided, as appropriate.

Australia considers there is a clear operational and practical need to work together in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. We affirm the important role of the Committee in facilitating a consensus-based approach to addressing emerging challenges, and we will continue to engage in this endeavour with Member States and Permanent Observers through this Committee.

Thank you.