

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 4 – General Exchange of Views
Delivered by: TBD

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

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada congratulates you on your appointment as COPUOS Chair. We look forward to working with you during your tenure. We also thank the outgoing Chair, Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt, for his stewardship of the 67th COPUOS session. Canada also thanks the Secretariat for its essential support to the Committee's work and also commend Director Holla-Maini for her leadership in creating a robust vision for the future of UNOOSA.

Canada continues to advance priorities across Earth observation, communications and robotics. Canada is a bold, ambitious, innovative country. Not only do these words define the space sector; they underpin the vision required to advance this committee's work. This session has an ambitious agenda, and several important decisions before it. Space should unite us, and we hope all delegations will undertake this unique session with the Vienna spirit in mind.

Canada is actively participating in the work of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation and looks forward to reaching consensus on the Workplan. We also continue to support the ongoing negotiations on an initial set of draft principles under the Space Resource Activities working group. Through our work at COPUOS - as the central multilateral forum for global space governance - we should be driving at tangible solutions to preserve outer space for future generations.

Space powers our daily lives. However, several emerging trends, including uncontrolled space debris re-entry are underlining the urgency of the implementation of measures to support the sustainable use of outer space. The 2019 Long-term Sustainability guidelines and the space debris mitigation guidelines provide a solid foundation for addressing the sustainability of outer space. Canada looks forward to adopting a substantive, consensus-based final report for the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space in 2026 and ensuring that these essential discussions continue within the long-term sustainability working group. We also thank Germany for its proposal to establish a Study Group on Space Traffic Management and the UAE for its proposals for a Space Situational Awareness Expert group at the STSC.

International partnerships are crucial to success and Canada has developed niche expertise and invested in key areas that will remain our strengths. Forums like UNCOPUOS are critical to building relationships, developing trust and enhancing transparency. In this vein,

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 4 – General Exchange of Views
Delivered by: TBD

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

Canada welcomes the adoption of the “Pact for the Future,” which underlines the urgency of core challenges including space traffic, debris, and space resource activities. It is important that we reach a decision on UNISPACE IV at this session even if deliberation on concrete outcomes will evolve. We thank Italy and Morocco for their efforts to advance this important discussion. UNISPACE IV would be an excellent opportunity to consolidate and take forward existing COPUOS work streams, set the vision for the future, and raise high-level awareness on the Office and work of the committee.

Dialogue, trust, and transparency will be critical to tackling emerging challenges and implementing novel and concrete solutions. Canada thanks the UAE Space Agency for hosting the Artemis Accords workshop in May 2025. These discussions complement the priorities of COPUOS and its subcommittees.

Achieving progress in space depends on bold, creative, and resourceful minds. The potential synergies between innovations in space and domestic priorities needs continue and space capabilities can enable a prosperous society: fresh food production in remote areas, technologies that boost healthcare delivery, resilient infrastructure set to adapt to a changing climate... these are all areas where space innovation can directly benefit life on Earth. In addition, organizations that support a diverse and inclusive workforce are better positioned to seize new opportunities in space. We thank Kenya’s Space Agency for hosting the Space4Women Expert Meeting in Nairobi in November 2024.

Chair,

Our discussions at COPUOS aim to safeguard peaceful and sustainable operations in outer space, thereby enabling the delivery of space-based benefits on Earth. Over the last three years, the Russian Federation has continued to disregard international law and peace, destroying civilian infrastructure and preventing the Ukrainian people from accessing critical space-based services. Canada calls on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its war of aggression against Ukraine and withdraw all military and proxy forces.

We look forward to a productive session.