

## **Slovak Republic - Statement**

### **Agenda item 4: General exchange of views**

#### **68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

First, allow me to extend my gratitude to the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and her dedicated Team for their support and excellent organisation of this meeting.

Mr. Chair, Slovak Republic would like to thank you for leading these discussions and assure you of our full support.

Slovakia fully aligns itself with European Union 's statement and in our national capacity we would like to add the following:

For decades, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) has served as a foundation of international cooperation in outer space, providing a unique multilateral platform where all nations can come together to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space are conducted for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humankind.

During last year, important milestones in the Slovak space policy were reached.

In May 2024 the Slovak Republic signed the Zero Debris Charter and strengthened its commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in space.

Building on the success of GRBAlpha (launched in 2021), the GRBBeta mission was launched in July 2024 on the maiden flight of the European Space Agency's Ariane 6.

GRBBeta was developed under the leadership of the Technical University of Košice, Faculty of Aeronautics and is the result of the work of an international team of scientists (Hungary, Czech Republic, Japan and Canada). GRBBeta was created with the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.

In November last year, the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the Act No. 378 of 28 November 2024 on the Regulation of Space Activities, which entered into force on 1 February 2025. This Act governs the conduct of regulated space activities and establishes a National Registry of Space Objects.

In December 2024, the Slovak government adopted the Slovak Space Strategy. The "Slovak Space Strategy 2030+ - Space as a Catalyst for Growth" was prepared due to the need to highlight the strategic importance and relevance of space activities in the Slovak

Republic and to outline the vision and goals of their development. As this is a highly cross-cutting area, the document defines the competences of responsible ministries and informs about the current system of space activities management in the Slovak Republic with a view to their over-ministerial management in the future.

The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth organised the Slovak Space Forum in March 2025. The event was attended by State Secretaries of ministries responsible for the space agenda in Slovakia. The aim of this meeting was to intensify inter-ministerial cooperation in the field of space policy. At this event we could also welcome representatives of academia, the private sector, EUSPA and ESA.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, Slovakia reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful use of outer space and we look forward to continued collaboration within COPUOS.

Thank you for your attention.