



# Permanent Mission of Austria

to the United  
Nations in Vienna

**AUSTRIA, ITEM 4**  
**General Exchange of Views**  
**68<sup>th</sup> COPUOS (25 June – 2 July 2025)**  
**Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Chair, let me thank you for chairing this session of the Committee and assure you of our full support to bring this session to a successful conclusion. Let me also thank UNOOSA-Director Aarti Holla-Maini and her team, especially Ms. Takemi Chiku, Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, for preparing this session under the particularly difficult circumstances we have to face.

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add the following in her national capacity:

Austria thanks the chairs of the working groups of the sub-committees for their essential work and their efforts to bring forward the discussion on most important topics. We are also grateful for the efforts of the Action Team on Lunar Activity Consultation in elaboration of its work programme for 2025-27 and wish them all success for their future work.

Austria further supports the proposals to set up a Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic at the Legal Subcommittee as well as an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which are complementary in nature. We look forward to further constructive discussions with a view to the Committee reaching a decision on their establishment at this session.

And we thank Italy and Morocco for their efforts to prepare a decision of the COPUOS concerning the holding of a UNISPACE IV-conference in 2027.

Austria became the 50th Signatory of the Artemis Accords in December 2024. In June this year, Austria hosted a successful informal gathering of Vienna-based diplomats of the

Artemis Accords, fostering dialogue and collaboration. Austria remains fully committed to engaging constructively in multilateral discussions to ensure that the principles and objectives enshrined in the UN space treaties are effectively upheld and implemented in the context of cislunar and deep space activities, including on celestial bodies.

In 2025, 'Astronaut for a Day' will be launched as a joint initiative by Luxembourg, Estonia and Austria. This educational programme gives young people a chance to experience microgravity on a parabolic flight and become space ambassadors to inspire their peers. The programme not only promotes STEM education but also highlights Austria's strong role in international space outreach.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to a joint side event organised by Canada, UNOOSA and Austria on 30 June from 13:10 to 14:00 in the Press Room on the ground floor. The topic is 'The need to ensure the sustainability of space and safe airspace'. With this event, we would like to draw the attention of delegations to the risks associated with orbital debris for ensuring safe air and space traffic. This could be a possible topic for discussion in both the proposed Expert Group on SSA and the Study Group on Space Traffic.

Thank you!