

Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

The COPUOS sessions are important opportunities to discuss significant issues regarding the peaceful uses of outer space. Hungary reaffirms that COPUOS and its subcommittees play a primary role in addressing current and emerging challenges and in reaching consensus that leads to development of internationally agreed legal regimes, in particular on space debris, space traffic and resource management, including governance.

Hungary welcomes the applications of Malta, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Honduras to become a member state of the COPUOS. We believe the more members COPUOS has, the stronger and more visible its voice will be within the United Nations' family.

Allow me to take this opportunity to highlight some key elements of Hungary's space policy. Hungary has almost 80-year long tradition in the field of space research and technology, which has gained new momentum in the past 10 years. In 2015, Hungary became a full member of the European Space Agency, and in 2021 the Hungarian government adopted its first national space strategy. Over the past few years, Hungary has concluded more than twenty cooperation agreements with states, space agencies, and private companies at the forefront of space exploration. Hungary's first research astronaut flew to space in 1980. Today, we are proud to announce our second research astronaut, Mr Tibor Kapu, who has started his travel to the International Space Station as part of the Axiom-4 mission this morning. The Hungarian research astronaut will carry out 25 experiments developed by Hungarian scientist and engineers during his 14-day-mission on board the International Space Station. The opportunity to conduct research in space has already given a significant boost to Hungary's space science sector and serves as a strong driver for innovation and international cooperation. Through this mission and its scientific outcomes, Hungary aims to strengthen its contribution to the international space community.

Thank you.