

68th SESSION OF UN COPUOS
Agenda Item No. 04 – General Exchange of Views

To be delivered by Dr. Engr. Ariel C. Blanco
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Mr. Chair,

The Philippines extends our deep appreciation to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for the preparation of this year's 68th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS). Our delegation would like to thank Mr. Rafiq Akram of Morocco for his leadership and work in chairing this Committee. We also take this opportunity to thank Director Aarti Holla-Maini and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session.

Since this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor for this session, the Philippines welcomes Latvia and Djibouti as new members of the UN COPUOS. Our growing number signifies the clear role of the Committee in discussing and promoting the peaceful use of outer space.

Mr. Chair,

We remain committed to strengthening existing frameworks that safeguard the space environment. In support of rules-based international order, we advocate for the peaceful use of outer space, the prevention of arms race in outer space, and the long-term sustainability of space activities. As space technology advances, we share a collective responsibility to uphold these principles by actively engaging with relevant treaties.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,

The Philippines has made milestones towards strengthening our space ecosystem:

1. In the upstream segment, the Multispectral Unit for Land Assessment (MULA) satellite is under development and set for launch in 2026. It will capture up to 139,000 sq. km. of imagery daily to support the regular updating of land use, agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure maps.
2. In the downstream sector, the Philippines and the European Commission, through the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme (CopPhil), launched the Copernicus Data Centre—the first Copernicus Earth observation data storage and processing facility in Asia.
3. On the bilateral and multilateral front, we signed cooperation agreements last year with the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the Polish Space Agency (POLSA). The Philippines will host the International Space Forum

at the Ministerial Level – Southeast Asian Chapter in December 2025 and the 31st Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) on 18 to 21 November 2025. We invite Member States to attend and participate in these events.

Mr. Chair,

Under the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications (ASEAN SCOSA), the Philippines and Thailand are jointly leading the ASEAN Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Space Traffic Management (STM) project. Through regional cooperation, we aim to establish a shared understanding and framework that will guide us in a regional and collective effort in SSA/STM. We need to exhaust all existing mechanisms in addressing the issue of space debris, which continues to challenge and threaten our space infrastructure. We call on States to refrain from committing any irresponsible behavior and continue to abide by the existing norms and principles in outer space.

In closing, Mr. Chair,

As we chart our path forward, we must continue to push the boundaries of knowledge and continue to utilize diplomacy for meaningful dialogue. Each of us must continue to contribute to a secure, peaceful, and sustainable use of outer space—governed by the rule of law, which is aligned with scientific and technical advances for the present and future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.