

**National Space Society Statement to UN COPUOS LSC 2024,
Item 4 General Exchange of Views**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to address the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on behalf of the International Committee of the National Space Society (NSS). We extend a warm welcome to the new sub-committee chair, Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla, and to the new director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Mani.

As a non-profit with international membership and activities, NSS is a permanent NGO Observer of UN COPUOS, dedicated to promoting space exploration, development, and settlement for the benefit of humanity. Our origins can be traced to the birth of the space program, and since then, we have been steadfast in our commitment to advancing the peaceful uses of outer space. Our vision is a future where the benefits and opportunities of space exploration are accessible to everyone, everywhere.

In 2018, inspired by the late David Dunlop, the NSS proposed an 18th UN Sustainable Development Goal focused on expanding humanity into space. This initiative, now supported by over 70 international organizations including Space Renaissance International, promotes transparent and cooperative space development. By integrating sustainable development principles early in our space endeavors, emphasizing “ReSpEcT” as discussed by our previous technical presentation, we aim to establish a foundation for a sustainable future in space for all of humanity.

We commend two significant submissions to COPUOS: the Romanian delegation's proposal for a consultative mechanism for lunar activities and the Chinese delegation's call for a legal framework to regulate space resource activities. These initiatives promote the development of best practices within an international framework for transparent and cooperative lunar resource utilization, mindful of environmental and heritage concerns. This moment in history is remarkable. Numerous nations are now developing capabilities to explore and eventually inhabit our Moon. A collaborative approach to studying lunar resources would not only propel advancements in science and technology but also foster robust international cooperation. At NSS, our experts on Lunar science and space resource utilization stand ready to collaborate with all nation states as we progress humanity towards sustainable development on the lunar surface and beyond.

NSS recognizes the critical issues of satellite constellations, orbital debris, and preserving quiet and dark skies. We commend delegates' efforts to address these challenges and advocate for further work in these areas, including innovative solutions to mitigate risks and ensure the sustainable use of space while bringing the immense benefits of satellite technologies to the world's citizens, such as ubiquitous affordable connectivity, vital weather information, and climate monitoring.

NSS proudly supports the International Year of Planetary Defense 2029 (IYPD2029), a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about the risks posed by near-Earth asteroids to everyone on our home planet. This effort also emphasizes the ongoing initiatives to mitigate these dangers. As the close approach of asteroid Apophis in 2029 draws nearer, the International Year of Planetary Defense underscores the critical need for international cooperation in planetary defense efforts.

Inclusion and international cooperation are fundamental to NSS's mission. We advocate for the cooperative and peaceful development of space, ensuring access for all communities and nations. By fostering collaboration and creating shareable resources, we can maximize the potential of space exploration and development to benefit humanity.

In conclusion, the National Space Society is dedicated to expanding humanity's presence in space for the betterment of Earth and all its inhabitants. We are committed to the transformative power of space exploration, which drives scientific progress and improves the human condition. As an international organization with a rich history in space activities, and with a membership comprising experts in all facets of space exploration and development, we stand ready to support and assist all member states in their pursuit of the peaceful uses of outer space.