

Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee

Sixty-third session

Vienna, 15–26 April 2024

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Future role and method of work of the Committee

Non-paper submitted by Portugal

Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Conference

Draft Lisbon Space Manifesto

Portugal submitted during the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the conference room paper A/AC.105/2023/CRP.21 explaining the reasons and the process of the conference organized together with UNOOSA on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

The preparations for the conference in Lisbon on the 14 and 15 of May are undergoing, and Portugal is preparing the Lisbon Space Manifesto, based on the outcomes of the preparatory virtual events, a technical symposium, held last November, and policy symposiums, held last month

This process intends to be inclusive and collect inputs and feedback from all Member States interested in providing them. So, to draft this Manifesto, Portugal requested to the regional groups the designation of two representatives to support the drafting exercise. The result of that exercise can be found below annexed to this non-paper.

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* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.326](#).



The Lisbon Space Manifesto

Outcomes of UN – Portugal Conference on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

15 May 2023

This manifesto was prepared by the Portuguese Space Agency in the context of the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities conference, 14-15 May 2024, co-organized, together with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Contributions to the manifesto includes COPUOS Member States, Civil and Youth Organizations, Industry and Academy. It is a summary of the discussions taken during the preparatory events.

At the time of its 75th anniversary, the United Nations Member States requested the United Nations Secretary-General a report with recommendations to respond to current and future challenges. In the UN 75 Declaration, Governments called for a renewed multilateralism that strengthened global governance for the common future of present and coming generations.

In response to the UN75 call, the UN Secretary-General, in his Our Common Agenda report devoted a significant section to outer space governance. In this report, the importance of the space sector is well reflected in the third proposed commitment “Promote peace and prevent conflicts”. It also recommended the organization of a high-level multi-stakeholder “Summit of the Future” to advance ideas for governance arrangements that will be preceded by preparatory events and consultations, which among other topics will address *“Outer Space, to seek agreement on the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space, move towards a global regime to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities;”*

On May 29th, 2023, the UN Secretary-General launched the Policy Brief 7 “For all humanity: The future of Outer Space governance” that underscores the need to understand and address the emerging risks to outer space security and sustainability and highlights the significance of agile and multi-stakeholder governance responses. In this policy brief, it was identified as the most urgent areas pertaining space sustainability the Space Debris, Space Traffic Management and Space Resources.

It should be recalled “The “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development (A/RES/76/3) resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 October 2021, in which it is recognized how space tools are highly relevant for the attainment of the global development agendas, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals and targets, and the positive impact of space activities on life on Earth by providing essential data for the indicators used to monitor the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement. In fact, space activities and space tools can have an enormous contribution to the achievement of global agendas, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

As these matters are, first and foremost, the prerogative of Member States, the United Nations/Portugal conference on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities provided the opportunity to actively contribute to the process of the Summit of the Future offering a platform for engagement on these vital issues.

The Conference, and its two preparatory virtual events, aimed to address these challenges head-on and foster collaboration among stakeholders involved in the management of outer space activities and collect valuable information from academics, industry, policy makers and Member States.

Building up on that extensive, open, and independent debate through this Conference and its preparatory events, as reported to COPUOS in A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.34 and *[A/AC.105 to be inserted]*

The participants in the Lisbon Conference, make an urgent call to action to lien space as safe, sustainable and an inclusive domain for generations to come, and through this Manifesto identifies:

1. That the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees have a prime role as the appropriate forum to discuss current and emerging challenges and to reach consensus leading to internationally approved legal regimes, particularly those concerning space debris, space traffic coordination, and space resources, including governance;

2. The advancing of multilateral efforts for the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space and the need for government and multilateral cooperation to establish a unified guidance for sustainable space activities are of paramount importance;
3. The benefits of a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement, in the rulemaking procedures for space activities, in a comprehensive space governance framework, should be recognized, for example through a dedicated institutional platform within COPUOS;
4. That there is a need for transparency, consistency and alignment of regulations and common ground across the various ongoing forums and initiatives, in a way that effectively addresses and ensures the safety and sustainability of space activities at large and in a manner that space operators, public and private, can abide by;
5. The importance to expand and strengthen youth participation in national and international space activities and UN-led decision-making processes through dedicated avenues to include the viewpoint of youth, as well as through intergenerational dialogues and to preserve space as an intergenerational global commons;
6. The Summit of the Future and the Pact of the Future as key initiatives for fostering greater cooperation and coordination in outer space exploration and utilization and it is proposed that priority is given to an enhanced support to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and to capacity-building efforts for space as a driver of social and economic development.

Lisbon, May 15th 2024

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