

64 session of the Legal Subcommittee of the COPUOS,

Vienna, 5 – 16 May 2025

Agenda item 3 General Exchange of Views

Statement of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation I wish you Mr Chair all success during your chairmanship of the 64th session of the Legal Subcommittee.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Madame Holla-Maini, the Director of the UNOOSA and the entire Secretariat for their exceptional work.

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU, including strong condemnation of Russia's war of aggression and manifestation of full solidarity with Ukraine and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Poland as firm supporter of the multilateralism is deeply attached to the work of the Legal Subcommittee and believes that the Outer Space Treaties should remain fundamental framework for the whole international community and for all stakeholders undertaking space activities.

Mr. Chair,

Our Delegation would like to stress that Poland remains actively involved in Artemis Accords, an international partnership established to facilitate human and robotic space exploration.

Polish Space Agency prepares a prototype of a Lunar repository, intended to supplement the efforts made by UNOOSA and COPUOS Member States in order to provide information about conducting space activities under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty. The repository will be a practical tool for Artemis Accords signatories, which in long term perspective will have an open access to it. The repository aims to mitigate potential interferences between lunar missions that might occur on the lunar surface in the near future. Its purpose is to increase the safety of lunar operations and international cooperation on the Moon.

In this context, I would like to stress that Poland highly appreciates the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities and we hope that the work of the ATLAC will promote the development of safe, sustainable and transparent lunar activities for peaceful purposes.

Similarly, we look forward to further deliberation and reaching an agreement on the substantive, financial and organizational issues related to the UNISPACE IV Conference, which will allow it to be effective and valuable event.

Mr. Chair,

Poland is proud to announce that we count upon the launch of Ax-4 mission to the International Space Station, alongside Polish astronaut Dr. Uznański-Wiśniewski who will become the second Pole in space, and the first one to go to the ISS.

With the involvement of Polish companies and scientific institutions, the mission will carry out 13 experiments expected to advance medicine, biology, engineering, and space technology. Polish experimental program on board of ISS will include research activities on, among others, the impact of a long-term stay in space on human mental health and on the use of micro-organisms to sustain other life forms for space exploration.

Mr. Chair,

As highlighted in previous years, we attach great importance to the contribution of the academic community to the development of space law. In May 2025, the first Polish-language manual on space law will be published. This comprehensive work represents the collective effort of the entire academic community engaged in the study of space law, coordinated by the Manfred Lachs Center for Space Law.

Mr. Chair,

Poland continues to work on the adoption of the national legislation on the activity in outer space. In the ongoing legislative work, achievements of the COPUOS are taken into account, starting from treaty regulations, to non-binding provisions resulting from the activities of the working groups.

In the draft act, we put emphasis on the need to implement Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to eliminate and mitigate the negative impact of the national space activities on the Earth's natural environment and the Outer Space, including space debris prevention.

I would like to conclude by referring to the issue of space resources.

We also welcome the upcoming 8th Space Resources Conference in Krakow, Poland on the theme "The Path to Lunar Sustainability", in May 2025. We hope that this event will provide valuable inputs to the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and facilitate building consensus regarding the drafting of a set of initial recommended principles.

My Delegation welcomes the progress made within the Working Group under the illustrious leadership of the Vice – Chair Mr. Steven Freeland, after sudden passing of the Chair of the Working Group Mr. Andrzej Misztal, Polish eminent diplomat committed to the international space law, dedicated contributor to the work of the Legal Subcommittee and its former Chair.

On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to thank the Chairs of the STSC and LSC, Director of the UNOOSA, all Delegations of Member States and Observers for their condolences expressed during the STSC as well as LSC.

Thank you