

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee**  
**64<sup>th</sup> Session 5 – 16 April 2025, Vienna**

**Statement by Germany**

**Agenda item 11 – General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management**

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all without discrimination. While Article I of the Outer Space Treaty grants the freedom to explore and use outer space, it also calls upon us to use space responsibly. We believe that this can most appropriately be achieved through international management of space traffic, referring to the entirety of coordinated international efforts, policies, legal regulation, standards, technologies and strategies designed to ensure the safe, sustainable and efficient operation of objects in space, and in particular in Earth orbit.

Last year, we proposed a way forward for this Legal Subcommittee to take concrete steps to address legal and policy aspects of space traffic. We appreciate the positive attitude towards and support expressed for our idea to establish a “Study Group on legal and policy aspects of space traffic”. We continue to believe that it is high time for COPUOS and its Subcommittees to address the urgent challenges posed by the ever-increasing amount of traffic in space, be it launchers, satellites or remains of past space activities.

The task before us is not easy and requires that we join efforts in a constructive manner to tackle it comprehensively. In this regard, Germany welcomes the initiative by the United Arab Emirates to establish a dedicated mechanism on SSA and the leadership shown by India at the LTS Working Group, both at STSC. COPUOS needs the expertise of both of its Subcommittees to address space traffic, and it is by cooperation that we enable progress.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

taking into account the feedback we received from so many of you, we refined our concept and together with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Italy, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway,

Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, submitted it as Conference Room Paper 28.

We propose that a Study Group is established to prepare, within two years, a research report on legal and policy aspects of space traffic for the Subcommittee to discuss and use it, so far as deemed appropriate, to take the next steps. The idea of the Study Group is not to reinvent the wheel, a lot of work has already been done by Member States, regional organisations as well as academia and other stakeholders. All that work shall feed into the discussions we may have in the future. In order to facilitate the collection of the relevant regulations, policies, best practices and requirements at the national and regional levels, as well as the identification of existing international norms, a questionnaire addressed to all COPUOS delegations could be used. We appreciate the broad participation and constructive discussions during the informal consultations held on Wednesday, Friday and today, and we hope that we may take this as a positive sign that we can reach consensus on how to further the discussion. To facilitate the establishment of the Study Group at this session, our Conference Room Paper 28 includes possible language for the report of the 64th session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee including on the mandate, terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Study Group as an annex to this paper. We thank again everyone that engaged so far to find consensus, and we look forward to continue this for this work to be concluded by the time of report adoption.

Thank you for your kind attention.