

**Check against delivery**

**Statement of the Republic of Türkiye**  
**Agenda item 3: General Exchange of Views**  
**64th Session of the Legal Sub-Committee (LSC)**  
**United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**Vienna, 5-16 May 2025**

Let me at the outset thank you and the Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Holla-Maini for the excellent preparation of this session.

Distinguished Chair and Delegates,

The role of COPUOS and its Sub-Committees as well as the UNOOSA, in both regulating and managing these activities, and in executing space-related programs have become even more important in the face of rapid growth in space activities.

And, space law, more than an academic pursuit in a particular field, serves as a practical necessity for the future of human exploration and expansion into space. The Pact for the Future in that sense, recognized among others, the need for urgent action to ensure safe and sustainable use of space for the benefit of all humankind.

We are pleased to highlight that Türkiye has ratified all the five UN treaties, which constitute the cornerstone of international law on outer space, including the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

We call upon those who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify all the five UN treaties, in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space for all.

Chair,

We believe that, as the main platforms, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), its Subcommittees and Working Groups play a pivotal role in regulating and managing outer space activities.

We consider COPUOS as the authorized body with respect to discussions on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

Türkiye is of the opinion that the technical mandate of COPUOS and its Subcommittees should be strictly preserved, also with respect to the work on potential legal models for space resource related activities. Maritime law, airspace law and outer space law have different dynamics and are regulated by different regimes, bodies and instruments, and the regimes/instruments that are not on “outer space”, fall out of the scope and mandate of COPUOS, and as such should be precluded in outer space documents.

Chair,

Regarding the proposal to hold UNISPACE IV in 2027, we would like to underscore once more the importance of addressing key priorities, including the establishment of coordination mechanisms for ensuring space sustainability, the broader utilization of space solutions like the use of space data, technologies and applications to achieve the SDGs, and the enhancement of international cooperation for the peaceful use and exploration of outer space.

We support discussions on long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris mitigation, space traffic management and the efforts for cooperation on space resources and sustainable lunar activities.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Turkish Space Agency (TUA) was established in 2018, to regulate the space-related activities, in a unified manner and Türkiye has been significantly expanding its space activities in recent years, under its National Space Program.

TUA has assumed administrative, technical, planning and regulatory tasks, for the development and regulation of space activities. TUA, among others, is also responsible for performing registration tasks in accordance with the UN Registration Convention, developing scientific and technological infrastructures, human resources and capabilities in the field of aeronautics and space technologies, and monitoring developments in international space law, collaborating with equivalent organizations abroad and performing any kind of tasks concerning space law, including drafting legislation.

As a landmark achievement in our National Space Program, the first Turkish Astronaut Alper GEZERAVCI returned from ISS on Ax-3 mission in February 2024. Together with our second Astronaut, Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER, who completed a suborbital flight in June 2024, he spearheads awareness raising activities especially among the youth, including at meetings held in Vienna.

With the launch of TÜRKSAT 6A last month (April 2025), which we developed with a domestic production rate of over 80 percent, Türkiye has become one of the 11 countries capable of producing its own communications satellite. With a coverage area of more than 60 percent of the world's population,

i.e. 5 billion people, we have now become one of the leading countries in space studies and satellite broadcasting.

Chair,

Türkiye values international cooperation also in space domain. Joint activities with international space organizations including United Nations bodies, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and others continue.

Türkiye became a new member of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) as well.

Moreover, in cooperation with the Organization of Turkic States, various space activities have been initiated for raising awareness and human capacity development. Türkiye looks forward to the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), to be held in Antalya in 2026.

Chair,

In closing we would like to reaffirm Türkiye's commitment to international cooperation in all aspects of the space sector, from regulatory frameworks to technical operations, with COPUOS playing the leading role.

We stand ready to work collectively with Member States to address shared challenges and ensure that outer space remains a domain of peace, innovation and opportunity for all humankind.

Thank you.