

## Germany, Item 3

### UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee

64<sup>th</sup> Session 5 – 16 May 2025, Vienna

#### Statement by Germany

#### Agenda Item 3 – General exchange of views

Honorable Chair, distinguished Delegates,

Germany assures you, Chair, of its support in guiding us in an efficient and results-oriented manner. We appreciate the excellent work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and its Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section in preparing our work and fulfilling its mandates under the space treaties, with too few resources.

Colleagues,

Multilateralism is under pressure, and it was an important sign that the Pact for the Future was adopted, including Action 56 on outer space governance. With the growing dependence on and use of **outer space as a global commons beyond national jurisdiction**, we continue to value the Outer Space Treaty and other UN instruments as a solid and robust legal basis for space activities. COPUOS and its Subcommittees should continue to lead its progressive development, in particular on space debris, space traffic and space resources.

Germany views the establishment of a **Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic** as an important step to advance understanding of legal and policy challenges related to ever-increasing space traffic, and to build up expertise at the Legal Subcommittee. It would complement the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and global Space Situational Awareness coordination. We thank the United Arab Emirates for their proposal, which we support. Together with Austria, Belgium, Greece and Norway, we issued a paper for consideration and decision by this Subcommittee, outlining the scope and possible outcomes of a Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic. According to this proposal, within two years, the group would compile and

assess legal and policy issues related to space traffic, taking into account regulations, policies, best practices and requirements at national and regional levels, as well as international space law, with the Outer Space Treaty as its core. It would produce a research report compiled by a drafting group on the basis of the input received from COPUOS delegations in response to a questionnaire. We invite all delegations to look at our proposal and stand ready for constructive consultations. Please join us for **informal consultations on Wednesday, May 7 at 9 am in Room M3**, where we are prepared to further introduce and discuss our proposal for a Study Group on Space Traffic.

Honorable Chair, distinguished Delegates,

The main work of this session takes place during formal and informal meetings of our three Working Groups and the Action Team for Lunar Activities Consultation ATLAC. We look forward to progressing there on pressing issues of international space law.

With regard to **the Working Group on Space Resources**, we thank Professor Freeland for providing the leadership essential to fulfil the ambitious work plan. The Draft Principles he provided on time are an excellent first step towards a much-needed framework for space resource activities. We will engage constructively in identifying areas of convergence and agreeing on the way forward.

With regard to the **Working Group on the Five UN Space Treaties**, we thank all delegations for their constructive participation last year, resulting in a work plan on information exchange on space activities under Article XI Outer Space Treaty. We look forward to discussing the template to facilitate submission of information to the UN.

More generally, we assure you of Germany's commitment to the sustainability and safety of space activities, as they offer critical contributions to sustainable development, disaster management and combatting climate change. With the Space2030 agenda in mind, COPUOS is the appropriate forum for cooperation and reporting to the General Assembly. **Outer space is and shall remain open for exploration and use for peaceful purposes by governmental and private actors.** Commercial operators of space infrastructure make significant contributions. The same principles apply to their activities as to those of governments.

Finally, we thank the International Institute for Space Law and the European Center for Space Law for convening a symposium during this session and look forward to inspiring contributions. Thank you.