

Germany, Item 5

UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee 64th Session 5 – 16 Mai 2025, Vienna

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 5 – Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

the five UN space treaties are the cornerstone of the international legal framework for activities in outer space, all of which were agreed by consensus at COPUOS and recommended by the General Assembly for ratification. Increasing dependence on space infrastructure warrants **universal acceptance and application** of this framework. The five treaties are the starting point for ensuring transparency, responsibility, safety and peace in outer space. We thank OOSA for information on the status of these agreements and its efforts to raise awareness and build capacity on space law around the world. We appreciate the “**Space Law for New Space Actors**” project and are pleased to contribute with experts to technical advisory missions.

This year, the Institute of Air Law, Space Law and Cyber Law at the University of Cologne is celebrating its **100th anniversary**. Its director will present the Institute’s activities in a technical presentation on Monday May 12. We thank him, his predecessors and the whole team for their efforts to promote space law in Germany and partner universities around the world.

2025 also marks the **50th anniversary of the Registration Convention**. Registration of space objects is a fundamental pillar of space law, a mechanism for information exchange and transparency, and the legal basis for allocation of jurisdiction and control over objects in space. Since the last Subcommittee session, twelve space objects have been added to the German space object register. Sharing best practices and discussing legal issues related to registration is important for developing the legal regime governing outer space. We commend OOSA for undertaking the “Registration Project” together with the United Kingdom and are pleased to contribute to next week’s meeting of National Focal Points.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Registration of space objects can be considered a means of implementing **Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty**, by which State Parties agree to share information on their space activities. We thank the Secretariat for the background paper on synergies between registration and Article XI. Concerning the template under discussion at the **Working Group under this agenda item**, it could be valuable to identify the most relevant purposes for sharing information under Article XI and how this might complement information on registered space objects. It could be considered to use Article XI notifications for **novel space missions** involving more than one space object, for example prior to conducting rendezvous or proximity operations, on-orbit servicing missions, or active debris removal procedures, as these activities warrant specific transparency and confidence-building. Article XI is also of interest for the **coordination and cooperation on lunar missions**, as developed among Artemis Accords signatories. As provided for in the NPS Principles, Article XI could also be used to disseminate information on safety assessments prior to the launch of space objects. Information could also be shared on the launch of space objects which will not to be included in the registry of the State conducting the launch.

Anticipating a growing use of Article XI and an increase in submissions to UNOOSA, the Office needs **adequate resources** to disseminate information efficiently. In this regard, a system whereby States themselves enter information into a catalogue maintained by the Office could be considered.

Thank you.