

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 64-th session of the LSC COPUOS
(05-16 May 2025, Vienna)**

Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views

**Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union under this agenda item. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following remarks.

Ukraine remains a committed member of COPUOS and its Subcommittees, which we regard as indispensable fora for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the progressive development of space law.

Regrettably, the full-scale war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international law —now in its fourth year—has severely disrupted our country’s space activities. This war has damaged Ukraine’s infrastructure, obstructed our scientific research, and hindered academic advancement in space law and related fields.

Nonetheless, Ukraine remains committed to restoring and strengthening its role in the international space community. With the continued support of our partners, we are determined to rebuild our capabilities and contribute actively to global efforts in advancing responsible behaviour in outer space.

International solidarity remains crucial. Russia must not be allowed to violate the sovereignty and independence of other states with impunity.

Ukraine reiterates its strong opposition to granting UN affiliation to the so-called “Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education” hosted in the Russian Federation. Accordingly, the Ukrainian delegation requests that this concern be duly reflected in the Report of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine is resolute in its pursuit of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. We believe the only viable path forward lies in the Ukrainian Peace Formula, grounded in the principles of the UN Charter and the full restoration of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

In today’s evolving space environment—marked by growing reliance on space-based technologies in daily life and increasing accessibility of outer space—we must revisit and reaffirm the principle of the peaceful use of outer space.

This principle, a cornerstone of international space law, must be interpreted through a systemic lens—one that accounts for the safety, sustainability, and equitable use of outer space for all nations.

The peaceful use of space should not be viewed solely in contrast to hostile acts; it must instead be rooted in the intent and compatibility of space activities with the broader goals of non-aggression, shared benefit, and the avoidance of harmful consequences.

In this context, we are alarmed by attempts to instrumentalize space-based data for military targeting of civilian population, as well as by the assertion that such data may become grounds for classifying satellites as “legal targets” under international humanitarian law – as recently proposed by the Russian Federation, without due regard for the humanitarian consequences of such actions.

We also recall Principle 25 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: *"Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible."* This principle applies equally to the space domain, especially as human activities expand toward the Moon and other celestial bodies.

Therefore, from our perspective, the peaceful use of outer space must be guided first and foremost by the compatibility of various space-related objectives. The meaningful participation from private sector actors, academia, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders—where appropriate and applicable—in intergovernmental processes aimed at enhancing the safety and sustainability of outer space is a valuable, as highlighted in the Pact for the Future.

At the same time, we must not forget that the value of law lies in its enforcement and impartiality, which means that dialogue must be sincere.

The use of space activities—and even spacefarers—as tools of political propaganda by the Russian Federation, particularly when they undermine *jus cogens* norms such as respect for sovereignty and the prohibition of the use of force, must be categorically rejected. The simultaneous reorientation of space activities towards military purposes only creates the illusion of respect and compliance with international law.

Dialogue with such actors must be based on genuine intentions and verifiable actions, not on proclamations that mask hostile intent.

From Ukraine’s perspective, any meaningful development of an effective space law regime is only possible if both the letter and spirit of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, as well as the principles enshrined therein and set out in other relevant legal documents, are fully respected.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine’s deep appreciation to all States that continue to support our struggle for freedom, independence, and human dignity in the face of ongoing Russian aggression.

Thank you, Mr Chair.