

Sixty-fourth Session

of the Legal Subcommittee

of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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

Statement by Ms. Ulrike Nguyen, Austria

6 May 2025

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

Austria is a State Party to all five UN treaties on outer space. We appreciate this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to each of these treaties.

Universal acceptance of and compliance with the UN treaties on outer space is of great importance to ensure the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for all humankind. We welcome the growing number of States Parties and encourage all States that have not yet done so, to ratify the treaties, including the Moon Agreement. This will strengthen the rule of international law in outer space.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

In December of last year, Austria became the 50th Signatory to the *Artemis Accords*, which include important principles for cooperation in the civil exploration and use of the Moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids for peaceful purposes. The Artemis Accords reaffirm the commitment of the signatories to the peaceful, responsible, and sustainable exploration and use of outer space in accordance with the UN treaties, and the UN Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

In Austria's view, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) is the primary multilateral body to promote the progressive development of international space law for the peaceful uses of outer space. Additional cooperation formats, such as the Artemis Accords, can complement and enrich the work of UNCOPUOS.

As expressed in Austria's signing statement, Austria will carry out its activities as an Artemis Accords signatory in accordance with its obligations under international law, in particular all five UN treaties on outer space, and with due regard to the relevant interests of all other States and regional organisations. Based on our signature, we will actively engage in the exchange of ideas among signatories to strengthen the application of the UN treaties on outer space in the context of activities in cislunar space and beyond, including on celestial bodies.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN treaties on Outer Space is doing important work to review the status of the treaties and to promote their implementation. We welcome the adoption of the multi-year workplan on the

implementation of Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive background paper and Chair's Summary on the implementation of Article XI prepared for this year's session. We look forward to continuing the exchange of views on this topic under the able leadership of the Working Group's Chair, Dr. Franziska Knur, with a view to developing a model submission form for the communication of information on space activities as a concrete outcome of the activities undertaken by the Working Group.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

Finally, on the topic of capacity building in space law, we would like to highlight that the Austrian Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure supports the activities of the National Contact Point for Space Law (NPOC) of the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) at the University of Vienna, which coordinates the activities of Austrian universities in the field of space law. These activities include the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, the Young Lawyers Symposium, the Practitioners' Forum and the European rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition.

In this context, we are pleased to announce that a team of three students from the University of Vienna won second place in the European Rounds of this year's Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court. We would like to congratulate the students and their faculty advisors and express our appreciation to ECSL and the European Space Agency (ESA) for organising and hosting the competition at ESA headquarters this year.

Thank you for your kind attention.