

**Canada****Agenda Item 6(b) – Matters relating to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.****Delivered by: Curtis Schmeichel, Global Affairs Canada**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee  
Sixty-fourth session, Vienna, May 5-16, 2025

Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Canada's views on this longstanding agenda item. Outer space, including the geostationary orbit, is not subject to national appropriation and all States are free to use and explore outer space. Therefore, it is necessary coordinate activities to enable all States to safely exercise the freedom of use and exploration in outer space without harmful interference.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the international organization responsible for coordinating the use of radiofrequency spectrum and associated orbits, including the geostationary orbit, taking into account the special needs of developing countries and the geographical situation of each State. The ITU process has been effective at finding a balance between the freedom to use and explore outer space and the need to avoid harmful interference that hinders that use and exploration. It would not be prudent for COPUOS to engage in any endeavour that could disrupt a system that has functioned effectively for many years.

Moreover, advances in the exploration and use of outer space have enabled space actors to conduct many of the activities once reserved exclusively for space objects in geostationary orbit to be carried out in other orbits. These advances have changed, to some extent, the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. Given these changes,

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it may be time to reconsider the focus of this agenda item or its continued inclusion on the agenda of the LSC.

Thank you.