

**Statement by Slovenia,**  
**64th Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee of the**  
**Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,**

**Agenda Item 7: Future Role of the Committee (Vienna, 7 May 2025)**

**Statement by: Maruška Strah, Slovenian Space Office**

**Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Thank you for granting me the floor and for the opportunity to share a few important points on behalf of Slovenia.

First and foremost, we regard COPUOS and its Subcommittees as the premier forum for addressing the most critical challenges in outer space. Slovenia remains committed to our active participation in this Committee and will continue to support the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). We truly value and appreciate the famous Vienna spirit we keep showing here.

We deeply appreciate the ongoing webcast of plenary sessions, which significantly enhances the accessibility of our discussions and, by extension, brings the vast domain of outer space closer to the global community. The opportunity to submit written inputs is equally invaluable, as it allows us to share critical information with the Committee and its Member States in a structured and transparent manner.

While we may occasionally encounter criticism regarding the pace of our progress, it is crucial to recognize that the system we operate within—where decisions are made collectively by Member States—remains the most effective mechanism available to us. The power to decide, and to guide our work, must continue to rest with the Member States.

That said, we cannot overlook the vital contributions made by the many stakeholders who are key to the success of our sector. Slovenia firmly believes that Permanent Observers play an essential role in enriching our discussions. Not only do they provide us with valuable insights and relevant data that are crucial for informed decision-making, but they also offer alternative perspectives and impartial viewpoints on complex issues. Non-governmental organizations, as well as scientific and academic institutions, bring indispensable expertise that significantly enhances the Committee's work. To achieve the success we all aspire to, we need their specialized support. Furthermore, we believe that industry representatives should have a seat

at the table within national delegations. Given our collective reliance on the private sector, their input is vital for Member States making the most informed and comprehensive decisions.

We have witnessed robust debates, which in our view, signal the Committee's maturation, as well as the evolution of the global space sector. However, we propose that we streamline our discussions by merging the two agenda items — Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation, and Small Satellites—into a single, unified agenda item entitled “Sustainable and Resilient Use of Outer Space.” This approach will not only allow us to address the most pressing issues in a more focused manner but also reduce unnecessary repetition, enabling us to use our time more efficiently. By eliminating redundancies, we will enhance our ability to reach consensus and, more importantly, craft solutions that benefit all nations. I want to emphasize that we intentionally excluded the agenda item on Space Traffic Management from this discussion, as we believe that its significance warrants a dedicated conversation.

Regarding Space Traffic Management, Slovenia strongly supports the establishment of a dedicated working group to address the legal aspects of STM. While we recognize the importance of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as the appropriate venue for technical discussions, we firmly believe that the legal dimensions of STM should be addressed within the Legal Subcommittee. We propose the creation of an expert group or a working group that could provide us with actionable recommendations for the Committee's consideration during UNISPACE IV. However, understanding the time constraints and the need to avoid unnecessary delays, Slovenia is prepared to support delegations that put forward more concrete proposals on how to advance STM discussions.

Gracias, Señor Presidente, and distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.