

Sixty-fourth Session

of the Legal Subcommittee

of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda item 7

Future Role and Methods of Work of the Committee

Statement by Ms. Ulrike Nguyen, Austria

7 May 2025

Mister Chair,

Austria considers **COPUOS** to be the primary platform for fostering international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Within this framework, the **Legal Subcommittee** stands as the primary multilateral body mandated with promoting the progressive development and codification of international space law.

In this context, we welcome discussions on how to further strengthen our shared efforts. Allow me to highlight a few specific elements:

First, on **clarity on the procedures of COPUOS**:

We welcome the suggestions from several Member States advocating for **clear Terms of Reference** for the Committee and thus also for the Legal Subcommittee. Establishing such a framework would enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency. As a starting point, we could further expand the **existing Compendium on rules of procedure and methods of work (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.5)**. There should be a single document of reference for delegations, elaborating on the rules governing the conduct of meetings and the negotiation of the report of the Committee and its Subcommittees. In this regard, we welcome the Secretariat's readiness to provide further guidance to delegations in an updated and simplified version of the just mentioned Compendium.

Second, on **technical presentations**:

We also welcome ongoing consultations on the organization of technical presentations. We believe these sessions offer valuable opportunities for expert networking and cross-fertilization of ideas. One possible approach could be to **organize presentations thematically**—aligned with agenda items—**prior to the sessions**. This would allow experts to engage more meaningfully with the content, promote dialogue with both peers and the diplomatic community, and build valuable connections around specific topics.

Finally, let me inform you that Austria has actively contributed to the **Mid-term review of the Space2030 Agenda**. We see this as an essential step in aligning our collective actions with the needs expressed by Member States. We hope this review will guide more targeted, effective action on space sustainability and global space governance.

Looking ahead, the upcoming **UNISPACE IV Conference in 2027** offers an excellent opportunity to showcase progress and shape the future. We are mindful of the fact though that previous UNISPACE conferences, which have all been held in Vienna, were most successful when they had clearly defined goals and desired deliverables. We look forward to further consultations on this and thank the facilitators, Morocco and Italy, for their work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.