

Germany, Item 7**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
64th Session 5 – 16 May 2025, Vienna****Statement by Germany****Agenda item 7 – Future role and method of work of the Committee**

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

COPUOS, its Subcommittees and UNOOSA are pivotal to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Germany supports measures to strengthen the political support of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for this important work. Our delegation continues to support UNOOSA's core programmes, including UN SPIDER, and provides additional human resources through a new Junior Professional Officer for the SPIDER office in Bonn. These programmes are important to make the benefits of space activities accessible to everyone and we are grateful for UNOOSA's work, despite limited resources.

Under this agenda item, we would like to make the following points:

First, given the ever-increasing number of important issues to be discussed by a growing number of COPUOS members, prudent management of our agenda is essential. We therefore support merging of the agenda items on Space Traffic Management, Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation, and Small Satellite Activities, allowing us to use our limited time for focused exchanges in working groups, action teams and study groups.

Secondly, we see continue to see value in the regular reporting format, as it provides the opportunity to reflect the different perspectives of Member States on the evolution of space law which have been expressed in formal sessions prior to report adoption. Under exceptional circumstances, we should focus on the outcomes and actions of our deliberations. Additionally, We encourage all delegations to submit statements for publication on the UNOOSA website, as a means of sharing information with the international community.

Thirdly, Germany continues to believe that increased coordination, interaction and synergy between the Subcommittees on cross-cutting issues, such as "sustainable lunar activities" and "space traffic", further enhance the work of the Committee and

enable COPUOS to base its final deliberations on the work and expertise of its two Subcommittees. In this regard, we particularly commend the ATLAC co-chairs, Ms. Botezatu and Mr. Abbas, for organising cross-committee meetings and coordinating with the WG chairs of both Subcommittees, and Prof Freeland for briefing the STSC on the work of the Space Resources WG.

Fourth, we are grateful for the insightful contributions of experts, including observer organisations, on the latest developments closely related to specific agenda items for further consideration by Member States in the various working formats, such as working groups, action teams, study groups, technical presentations and side events. We therefore support in principle the retention of technical presentations in our meeting structure, but suggest that they be grouped by agenda item. If resources are too tight, it should be ensured that our substantive discussions benefit from interpretation, while technical presentations could be scheduled around them and benefit from interpretation as far as resources are available.

Finally, we believe that the convening of UNISPACE IV should be linked to tangible objectives and actions that provide real added value to the work of COPUOS, to international cooperation on space issues and to the shaping of space governance. We thank Italy, Morocco and UNOOSA for organising informal meetings to develop recommendations and look forward to engaging in these exchanges.

To conclude, we stand ready to identify ways in which COPUOS can benefit from a greater diversity of views, while allowing sufficient time for substantive discussions. Given the magnitude of the tasks ahead, we must ensure that COPUOS and its Subcommittees continue their strong track record of delivering impactful results.

Thank you for your attention.