

**AGENDA ITEM 7
FUTURE ROLE AND METHOD OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

**STATEMENT BY KATIE KING, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

May XX, 2025

Chair, the United States would first like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat and you, Chair, for all the effort in organizing this session.

My delegation is pleased that last year we were able to streamline our agenda without sacrificing content or Member State engagement. We urge Members to ensure that this UN body continues to meet high standards for transparency, accountability, integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness. My delegation would also like to recognize and highlight the value of intergovernmental, nongovernmental and private sector observers to this and other bodies of UNCOPUOS. As we know, the issues we cover in our subcommittee are complex, and the diplomats and lawyers in the room need access to the expertise and unique perspectives provided by academia, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. An excellent example comes from the technical expertise provided at last year's expert meeting co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg regarding space resource activities.

We share the view expressed that the dilution or undermining of UNCOPUOS should be avoided, including by the creation of unnecessarily duplicative mandates in other UN fora, which would undercut the recognized technical, policy, and legal expertise of UNCOPUOS and its subcommittees in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Chair, my delegation would also like to note its appreciation for the proposal from the UNOOSA Secretariat and the Conference Room Paper from Italy and Morocco on UNISPACE IV. We look forward to further discussions at the plenary session in June, and believe it is important to focus on practical, results-based outcomes within existing resources.

The United States also wishes to express its appreciation for the German proposal on Space Traffic, and we look forward to further discussions to better understand the aims and outcomes of the suggested study group. This could serve as a useful complementary effort to the proposal for more technically-oriented discussions on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and safety of space operations at the STSC. While we view the topic of SSA as more pressing, we look forward to finding appropriate ways to discuss both of these critical issues across UNCOPUOS.

The United States would also like to acknowledge increased concerns around the topic of airspace management during space transportation activities and recommends future conversations between ICAO and UNOOSA to discuss these concerns.

Chair, in conclusion, the United States remains committed to the essential work of UNCOPUOS and its Subcommittees and looks forward to fostering mutually-beneficial space activities with our fellow member states.

Thank you Chair.