



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 59th session of the Technical and Scientific Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Hybrid meeting, 7-18 February 2022**

Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views

*Thank you Mr Chair, Good afternoon.*

I would like to congratulate you Ambassador Facetti for your election as the chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I wish you success in chairing this 59<sup>th</sup> session of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and assure my delegations full support and cooperation. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation to Natália Archinard of Switzerland for her excellent work as the chair of this subcommittee.

Allow me to express great gratitude to Director Simonetta Di Pippo for everything she has done for UNOOSA throughout the years. We note that the committee has grown considerably under her excellent leadership. We wish you all the best for the future.

I also wish to thank the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the continuous work and excellent organization of this meeting, which allows for continued dialogue and exchange among the Member States of the Committee during a pandemic.

We welcome Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, and Slovenia as the new States members of the Committee.

*Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,*

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

International cooperation forms a firm fundament of Finnish space activities. Finland is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA) since 1995, and the Finnish industry and research organisations participate actively in various ESA programmes. In this framework, the EU Space Programme and other multilateral and bilateral collaborations also continue to have an important role in the Finnish space programme.

Finland has a particular interest in small satellite activities. There are currently eighteen satellites registered in the national registry. All of these were launched in the past three years. These satellites include both missions by scientific institutions as well as by commercial companies.

Finland's national climate targets are ambitious and Finland promotes the role of space solutions in combatting climate change. Space data plays a key role in monitoring the environmental changes and the key variables such as greenhouse gases as well as reacting to natural disasters.

The issue concerning safety and sustainability of space activities is a growing concern to all space actors and the society. Finland considers that the development of a global Space Traffic Management regime that contributes towards creation, development and implementation of common international rules that take into consideration changes in the sector is timely and essential. An effective space situational awareness capacity, including space weather, space surveillance and tracking and near earth objects capabilities, is vital in supporting these aims. We are currently drafting a national space situational awareness strategy and are mapping our national operational and research capabilities, as well as the possibilities in international cooperation in this regard.

*Finally Mr Chair,*

Finland welcomes the adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Finland is fully committed to the implementation of the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and is furthering this by taking actions at national and international level. We wish that the working group on long-term sustainability of outer space activities would be able to start its substantive work as soon as possible, to which we are looking into contributing actively.

We consider that COPUOS is the right multilateral forum to address topics relevant to safe and sustainable space activities. In this context, we welcome the initiative of the International Astronomical Union to bring in the discussion at COPUOS the issue relating to Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society.

*I wish everyone an interesting and fruitful session. Thank you Mr Chair.*