

United Kingdom, Item 15

UK Statement on Nuclear power sources r at the 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, 6th-17th February 2023

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The United Kingdom has continued to provide leadership, through the chairmanship of Dr Sam Harbison (consultant to the UK Space Agency), of the Working Group on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. We fully support the work of this Group and recognize the value of the 1992 Principles and the Safety Framework to member States when developing and applying their national systems, for ensuring the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Nevertheless, we see the need for further work on the safety aspects of space NPS systems, particularly nuclear fission reactors and new types and uses of radioisotope power systems, and look forward to receiving the Group's report with its recommendations for further work in these areas.

The United Kingdom would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Sam Harbison as he steps down as chair of the NPS working group, for his dedicated and skilful work chairing this Working Group for many years. The United Kingdom expresses our sincere best wishes for his retirement, and we express our gratitude for his years of dedicated service.

The United Kingdom also extends its warmest greetings and extends its full support to the candidature of Mr. Leopold Summerer from the Austrian Delegation for the position of new Chair of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The United Kingdom is confident in Mr. Summerer's qualifications and expertise to competently fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the role. The United Kingdom looks forward to collaborating with Mr. Summerer and the rest of the Working

Group to achieve the objectives of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and to make progress towards a sustainable and secure future for all.

Thank you.