

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 13 – Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee.**  
**Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Sixtieth session, Vienna, February 6-17, 2023

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for their ongoing efforts to advance the important work of this Committee. We recognize the additional demand that the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic pose, including the demand on the schedule, has created for the Secretariat.

First and foremost, we recognize the utility of the limit of five minutes for plenary statements in order that every member who wishes to speak has the opportunity to do so. We recommend that state members submit an annual report of their activities, which will serve to make the information available while reducing the need to include such information in statements. As the Committee has expanded, this continues to be an important issue. Similarly, we wish to stress our view that COPUOS has been successful in safeguarding the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all by adopting a consensus approach to decision making and, in that regard, we believe that all decisions, short of routine administrative, by COPUOS should continue to be done by consensus.

Mr. Chair,

We wish to stress the importance of returning to in-person meetings. We understand that the hybrid format for 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the STSC is of an exceptional and temporary nature and wish to underline that this should not set a precedent. Not only does it incur significant additional costs for the Secretariat, it potentially impacts capacity-building activities if funds are reallocated to hold these hybrid sessions. In addition, it appears that our Committee is the only Committee in Vienna still utilizing a hybrid model. It should also be noted that hybrid sessions do not result in increased attendance. With the global pandemic winding down, it is our expressed wish that all future sessions of COPUOS and its subcommittee are conducted in person to enhance overall effectiveness.

Indeed, while we welcome the growing membership of this subcommittee, given the importance of its work, we continue to be mindful of the ability to have fulsome discussions. In particular, we wish to note our continued preference for a 'one on, one off' approach to the agenda, to allow suitable time to discuss each agenda item. As such, Canada wishes to express its support for extending the temporary agenda item of Dark and Quiet Skies with the conclusion of the Expert Group on Space Weather. This

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temporary agenda item would benefit from an Expert Group that would include all interested nations, satellite operators, and the scientific and academic community to evaluate the extent of the challenges and means to address to new era of large satellite constellations.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada would also like to address the role that COPUOS should have in shaping the Summit of the Future and the inclusion of a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space as part of this event as highlighted in the paper submitted by Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States entitled “Preparations for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space as part of a United Nations Summit of the Future” (A/AC.105/2022/CRP.17).

As we noted during the 65<sup>th</sup> session of COPUOS such a multi-stakeholder dialogue has the potential to inspire us all to work together to help ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space for current and future generations. We therefore wish to reiterate that we see it as essential that planning for the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal Summit in 2023 as well as the high-level track on space at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 take full account of the unique role of UN COPUOS and its subcommittees, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 76/3 “The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development,” which was adopted on 25 October 2021. Canada is pleased to be partnering with UNOOSA to hold the 2023 Space4Women Conference which directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals of Quality Education and Gender Equality.

We look forward to further dialogue with the Secretariat on the status of preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit as well as the Summit of the Future and proposed elements for further consideration.

Thank you for your kind attention.