



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna

---

**Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**The Sixty-First Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS**

**Agenda Item 12: Future role and method of work of the Committee**

5 February 2024 - Vienna, Austria

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Madam chair, Distinguished Delegates**

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was established by the General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development. During the last 6 decades, COPUOS has achieved valuable milestones and made significant efforts toward keeping the space safe for peaceful uses and gathering different ideas from the Member States to ensure the benefits of all based on a well-established principle of consensus.

As time has passed, many issues have emerged due to the rapid pace of technological developments and the increasing number of actors and activities in the space environment that were not even imagined at the time of the establishment of the Committee. Therefore, adequate measures have not been considered to address the challenges that we are facing nowadays.

Space exploration and utilization holds immense potential for scientific advancement, economic growth, and societal progress. However, equitable access to these opportunities remains a challenge, particularly for developing countries.

New emerging issues have led to challenges for developing countries, such as financial constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and technological disparities, all of which hinder their full participation in outer space activities.

### **Madam chair**

The progress of achievements in space technology has been accelerated, especially since the time private actors and commercial investments are aiming toward this market. To be able to play its valuable role and ensure its effectiveness in the new space era, COPUOS needs new views, tools and procedures.

For instance, the voluntary implementation of guidelines for Long Term Sustainability of outer space activities which is one of the most important topics that has recently received more and more attention, requires access to databases produced and updated by some Member States which have national-legal limitations and restrictions to share those data. Furthermore, some countries may prefer not to rely on other countries' datasets and catalogues. In such circumstances, COPUOS should provide the required and necessary infrastructures which are vital for implementing the LTS guidelines.

The promotion of international cooperation among Member States and related international organizations can play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between developed and developing countries in the realm of outer space activities. Initiatives such as UN-SPIDER serve as crucial platforms for enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making processes in space activities.

To govern the peaceful exploration and use of outer space in the new space age, some unprecedented procedures should be considered in COPUOS. This includes incorporating new initiatives to implement more practical measures and establish the required platforms to ensure the mutual benefits of all Member States and prevent divergence between them.

**Thank you, Madam chair.**