

## United Kingdom, Item 14

### UK Statement on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, 29<sup>th</sup> January - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The United Kingdom recognises the value of the 1992 Principles and the Safety Framework as fundamental guidelines for member States in developing and applying to their national activities and in ensuring the continued safe and responsible use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

We fully support the work of the Working Group on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and acknowledge the significant achievement reached last year, under the United Kingdom's leadership, with the publication of the final report on the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, and the recommendations for potential enhancements.

As highlighted by the report, there is a need for further work on the safety aspects of space systems using Nuclear Power Sources, particularly nuclear fission reactors and new types and uses of radioisotope power systems. The United Kingdom looks forward to contributing in this session to the development, agreement, and implementation of a work plan of the Working Group, which will seek to organise its work to address the areas highlighted.

The United Kingdom, while confirming its full support for the leadership of Mr. Leopold Summerer from the Austrian Delegation as the new chair of the Working Group, welcomes his suggestions regarding the best ways to engage with the private sector as part of the future work plan.

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 establishing the next critical phase of our work in ensuring continued safe and responsible use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Thank you.