

Germany, Item 4

UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

61st Session, Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024

Statement by Germany on

Agenda item 4: General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the German delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Subcommittee and assure you of our full support. I would also like to welcome the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini. We wish you and your team good luck and strong nerves in fulfilling your mandate and will support you wherever we can.

Distinguished delegates,

Last year, the German government published a new national space strategy. It acknowledges the profound changes that have taken place in the space sector over the past decade, and describes priorities for German space activities in this modern space age. It places particular importance on themes that are relevant to this Committee, such as using space applications to improve life on Earth and using space in a sustainable and safe way. We invite you to learn more about the new space strategy during a technical presentation scheduled for Tuesday next week at the end of the morning session.

German space activities have thrived in 2023. To illustrate just one activity, I would like to highlight the Heinrich-Hertz mission, or H2Sat, the first German communication satellite to study and test new technologies and

communication scenarios. It was launched with the last Ariane 5 rocket in July 2023 and carries two independent payloads, one is a scientific-technical payload to study new communication technologies for up to 15 years. Also, ten technologies for numerous satellite communications experiments are located on board of the satellite to be tested in orbit.

In September 2023 the German Space Agency at DLR signed the Artemis Accords to strengthen the common goal of DLR and its international partners to pursue programs for astronautical and robotic exploration of space. The Accords reaffirm the importance of the universal framework established by the Outer Space Treaty and the commitment to establish international rules and regulations in accordance with international law through a comprehensive multilateral approach. Germany continues to consider COPUOS as the central forum for the further development of international space law and is looking forward to continue cooperation with signatories and non-signatories for the benefit of peaceful, sustainable and safe space exploration.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

We have again a wide range of issues to discuss at this session of the Subcommittee, and I want to briefly outline some of the priorities of my delegation.

We regret that the Committee was unable last year to agree on an agenda item on dark and quiet skies, despite the tireless efforts by Chile, Spain, South Africa, the International Astronomical Union and many more. During the intersessional period, Germany was happy to join the Group of Friends on dark and quiet skies to keep the conversation on this important issue going. We hope that at this session, the Subcommittee can agree on a new agenda item to facilitate exchanges on how the effect of large satellite constellations on astronomical observations can be mitigated.

Germany will engage in the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and work towards recommendations that strengthen the safe and sustainable use of outer space. We look forward to the workshop next Tuesday that offers an opportunity to receive input from a wider range of stakeholders in space sustainability. To this end, Germany has nominated an industry representative to participate in the workshop.

We welcome the continuation of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space under the new chair Mr. Leopold Summerer. We would like to reassure Mr. Summerer of our support and are looking forward to fruitful discussions.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

the Summit of the Future will take place this September and outer space will be one of its elements. We hope that COPUOS can agree to make a meaningful contribution to the Pact for the Future that underlines its role as the central multilateral forum for the peaceful uses of outer space, and that demonstrates it is fit for the future and able to meet the challenges ahead. We also hope that the Pact can raise awareness of space governance issues, such as a multilateral approach to space traffic management, and support our work in the Committee in this regard. We want to offer an opportunity for discussion of the space-related aspects of the Zero Draft of the Pact, and therefore invite you to a side event on Wednesday next week during the lunch break.

Following the Summit of the Future, Germany and the Office for Outer Space Affairs will host the 2024 World Space Forum from the 3rd to the 5th of December this year in Bonn, the former German capital. The overarching theme of the event will be "Sustainable Space for Sustainability on Earth" and it will be the first time since the Summit of the Future that we can come together as COPUOS community and discuss the Pact of the Future. We invite you to join us and discuss with us how we can ensure the sustainable use of outer space in the future to guarantee and further the contributions

space science and technology provide to realize the sustainable development goals.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.