

National Space Society Statement to UN COPUOS STSC 2024,
Item 4 General Exchange of Views

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

It is with great honor that I address the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space today on behalf of the International Committee of the National Space Society (NSS). We extend a warm welcome to the new sub-committee chair, Ms. Ulpia Botezatu, and the new director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Fredrick Jenet, Vice-Chair of the NSS International Committee, who meticulously developed this statement in collaboration with the leadership of NSS.

As a non-profit organization with international membership and activities, NSS has a rich legacy in space program history. We are also a permanent NGO Observer of COPUOS. As such, we are dedicated to promoting space exploration, development, and settlement for the benefit of humanity. We believe in the transformative power of space exploration, not only in advancing science and technology but also in improving the human condition. Our vision is a future where the benefits and opportunities of space exploration are accessible to everyone in every nation and territory.

We are committed to advancing a range of advanced technologies crucial for space exploration and development. A key focus for our members is the development of space-based solar power generation. This technology holds the promise of a clean and eco-friendly energy solution for people living on Earth and beyond.

The National Space Society, alongside Space Renaissance International and other space organizations, strongly supports the initiative for a new UN Sustainable Development Goal dedicated to space development. This includes human activities off-planet and technological advancements. Integrating space into the global sustainability goals is crucial for humanity's future, offering solutions to global challenges like climate change and resource management. This initiative aims to promote international collaboration, ensuring space is a domain of peace and discovery, enhancing Earth's sustainability.

The National Space Society extends a heartfelt congratulations to our colleagues for their recent groundbreaking technological advancements, paving the way for lunar and cislunar exploration and development.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the potential of a global initiative to investigate and utilize the Moon's resources in a transparent and cooperative basis, with due regard for its environment and heritage sites. This moment in history is remarkable, with numerous nations possessing or developing capabilities to explore and cultivate the lunar landscape. A cooperative effort to research lunar resources will not only advance science and technology but also cultivate robust international alliances. By combining our global resources and knowledge,

we have the opportunity to reveal the Moon's potential, which could hold key materials and energy sources vital for sustainable life on Earth and in space. This collaborative endeavor offers a unique opportunity to forge a shared path in space exploration, turning the dream of lunar development into a reality for the betterment of all nations.

The Society also recognizes the crucial issue of orbital debris and commends the global community's efforts to address it. NSS has long advocated for solutions to this challenge, encouraging innovative approaches to mitigate its risks.

Beyond technological advancements, we emphasize the importance of education and public outreach. Along these lines, NSS is proud to support the International Year of Planetary Defense 2029, a crucial global initiative focused on raising awareness about protecting Earth from space hazards. Timed to coincide with asteroid Apophis' close approach to Earth, the International Year of Planetary Defense 2029 marks a significant advancement in planetary defense, highlighting it as a peaceful scientific endeavor that unites an international community of scientists.

While defending against NEO impacts is crucial, these astral bodies, depending on the type, also are vast reservoirs of natural resources. We will be giving a technical talk elucidating the dual aspects of NEOs on Thursday.

Inclusion and international cooperation are cornerstones of our mission. We believe in the equitable distribution of space benefits, ensuring that people from all backgrounds, genders, and nations can access space opportunities.

In conclusion, NSS is dedicated to advancing human presence in space for Earth's and humanity's benefit. We believe in the power of space to advance science, technology, and the human condition.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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