

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and technical Subcommittee
Sixty-First Session
Vienna, 29 January - 09 February 2024
Statement of the Delegation of Romania
Agenda item 4: General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of Romania, I extend our sincere congratulations to Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu for her esteemed appointment as the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee of COPUOS for the next two years. We are immensely proud and honored that a Romanian representative has been entrusted with this pivotal role. Romania is committed to supporting her leadership and to contributing constructively to our collective endeavors in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

We also warmly welcome and congratulate Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini as the new Director of UNOOSA. Her leadership is crucial as we navigate the evolving challenges and opportunities in space. We are confident that her guidance will significantly advance the mission of UNOOSA in promoting international cooperation in outer space.

Romania reaffirms its strong support for COPUOS and its Subcommittees, recognizing these as essential platforms for fostering international collaboration in the peaceful uses of outer space. We acknowledge the significant role of UNOOSA in supporting these efforts.

As an active member of both the European Union and the European Space Agency, Romania participates in all major space programs and initiatives on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, Space transportation.

Recent advancements in Romania's space sector demonstrate our commitment to global space collaboration. I would like to mention here that in the fall of 2023 the Romanian Space Agency signed a cooperation agreement with the

Luxembourg Space Agency.

We are proud to highlight our ongoing commitment to the Artemis Accords and our active involvement in discussing lunar sustainable exploration.

In the realm of Lunar activities, Romania maintains the view that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities ought to be an enduring preoccupation for all member states, encompassing both governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in space-related pursuits. Concurrently, the Romanian delegation asserts that the notion of Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities should encompass endeavors linked to other celestial bodies, with particular emphasis on the Moon.

At the last session, the Romanian delegation cordially invites all Delegations to partake in a thorough examination of how to effectively coordinate lunar technical activities within the framework of COPUOS. Furthermore, the Romanian delegation kindly requests all Delegations to provide their valuable insights and recommendations on specific arrangements for lunar coordination, if applicable, during this Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session. The ultimate objective of this endeavor is to establish a common understanding and determine the subsequent steps to be taken at the next COPUOS session.

The delegation of Romania is of the opinion that an international mechanism should be established to provide a forum for lunar operators to share information on their ongoing and planned operations and to engage in consultations in order to coordinate operations, facilitate interoperability, improve safety, avoiding interference, protecting the lunar environment, sharing best practices and lessons learned, and building capabilities, identifying common needs and concerns of lunar operators. Such a mechanism, which could be an International Committee for Lunar Operations where member states, industry, academia and civil society have the opportunity to express their own views on lunar exploration and exploitation, will favor finding common ground on the themes mentioned above. Such committee shall periodically report to COPUOS on its work and findings.

Romania recognizes the coordination of space traffic as one of the greatest challenges for the space sector. As part of our national efforts, the Operational Center for Space Surveillance and Tracking is being hosted within the premises of the Romanian Space Agency. The Operational Centre collects information from our network of telescopes and radars, analyses it, and then feeds in the Euro-

pean database for Space Surveillance and Tracking, as part of our national contribution to the EUSST Partnership.

Since 2014, Romania has been a member of the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking (EU SST) Support Framework, thus contributing with sensor capabilities, data-processing and service functions to support decision making at national and regional levels. Romania continues to be a member of the EUSST Partnership and is currently developing and extending the above-mentioned optical and radar surveillance and tracking infrastructure, also with a view to accommodating additional new technological upgrades for optical communication and quantum capabilities.

Furthermore, Romania is fully aligned with the Space2030 agenda, emphasizing our commitment to the sustainable and inclusive development of space activities. This aligns with our national strategy, fostering international collaboration for the peaceful use of space resources for humanity's benefit.

The Romanian delegation is pleased to congratulate the Republic of Türkiye for entering the select club of nations that have their own astronaut to represent them in international space activities. The delegation of Romania is also pleased to congratulate Japan for becoming the fifth country to soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon.

We look forward to a fruitful collaboration under the leadership of Ulpia-Elena Botezatu and remain dedicated to contributing meaningfully to the discussions and initiatives of COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies, including their Working Groups.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your attention.