

AUSTRIA, ITEM 11

Future Role and Method of Work

62nd Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (3 – 14 February 2025)

Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by welcoming back the new Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, Ms. Takemi Chiku, and wish her all success in her new and important function.

Austria further welcomes the Decision on the co-chairmanship of the Action Team on Lunar Activities and congratulates the co-chairs from Pakistan, Mr. Hasan Abbas, and from Romania, Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu, on your appointments. We wish you all success with your work to advance the discussion on this important topic.

We would like to thank the United Arab Emirates for their proposed Establishment of an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness and followed the informal consultations during this session with great interest.

For Austria, COPUOS and its subcommittees are **unique platforms for international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.**

We further appreciate the efforts of the Director of UNOOSA and her entire team **to make our work more efficient, impact-oriented, informed and relevant.**

The **UN Space Sustainability Days** with a workshop on space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and a simulation exercise on space traffic coordination on 30 and 31 January are one of several most welcome initiatives. Austria participated in the exercise and workshop with an expert.

The recent **UN Conferences** organized last year in June on **Sustainable Lunar Activities** and in November on **Space Law and Policy** are further excellent examples of experts' involvement, awareness raising and informing gathering for Committee decision-making.

Austria also participated in the latest **external evaluation** with an online interview in which we highlighted the important tasks of UNOOSA in an international environment that has changed significantly in the last years. Examples include the registration of an increasing number of space objects, the comprehensive and impact-oriented implementation of the tasks set out in the Space 2030 Agenda, and, most recently, the implementation of action 56 of the Pact for the Future.

Furthermore, we have to take into consideration that the number of member states of COPUOS has increased substantially. We welcome this success but also note that this leads to an additional workload for UNOOSA.

The implementation of the Space 2030 Agenda and of the decisions of the Pact for the Future concerning outer space requires a major effort:

The **mid-term review of the Space 2030 Agenda** will provide a basis for developing targeted and effective actions based on the needs expressed by Member States. We hope that the results of this review will stimulate the use of space solutions for the achievement of the SDGs.

Austria supports the **Pact for the Future**, which calls for the widest possible adherence to and full compliance with the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The Pact mandates us to discuss the establishment of new frameworks for space traffic, space debris and space resources.

Austria welcomes the planned UNISPACE IV conference in 2027 and thanks Morocco and Italy for their conference room paper as well as for the informals they held on this issue. It will be an **important milestone** for the implementation of the Pact for the Future and in improving the **sustainability of space**, increasing the **availability** of and **access to space solutions** and further **promoting international co-operation**.

UNISPACE IV can thus also contribute to concerted efforts to **anchor space on the next global agenda at international level beyond 2030**. Austria will support it in the best possible way.

Thank you.