

UK Statement – UN STSC 2025 – Agenda Item 11 - Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee

Chair,

Please allow me to set out the view of the United Kingdom on the future role of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The United Kingdom has taken a leading role on the sustainability, security, and safety of outer space. Along with other delegations, we believe that the STSC has a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability and peaceful use of the space environment.

Regarding the role of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, there is an important distinction between discussions held in Geneva and those held in Vienna. The discussions here in Vienna should focus on safety and sustainability, which may support the security agenda. While discussions in Geneva should focus on security which may support safety and sustainability. The fact that many space systems are dual-use shows why it is important to have distinct yet complimentary discussions in Geneva and Vienna.

We would now like to share some remarks on the ways of working.

First, the UK would like to welcome Ms. Takemi Chiku to her role as the new UNOOSA Chief, Policy and Legal Affairs section. We look forward to further collaboration with the UNOOSA Secretariat as we look for ways to improve the ways of working of this Subcommittee. The STSC should be easy for observers to understand, not just governments. In this regard, we, along with other delegations, welcomed the request for feedback on COPUOS from the UNOOSA Secretariat. The UK joins other delegations in the call for improvement regarding the current Compendium on Rules of Procedure and Methods of Work. We feel as though the current compendium is not fit for purpose and we join the request for the Secretariat to streamline the compendium. We call upon all delegations to consider ways to innovate and make our work easier for non-experts to

understand, as we have witnessed the success of such innovation in the call for the consolidation of agenda items.

Second, the United Kingdom is pleased to see that we have a diverse range of observers represented at COPUOS and its subcommittees. Space sustainability does not fall to governments alone. We believe that we should do more to fully engage the private sector and the scientific community. We would encourage delegations to consider including non-governmental actors as part of their delegations throughout the COPUOS meeting cycle. We have representatives from academia and industry on our delegation for this session. Our colleague from Eutelsat OneWeb delivered a technical presentation on Dark and Quiet Skies and our colleagues from academia have contributed their expertise to our discussions. The UK believes that sharing experience, ideas and creating a common vision, is one of the defining benefits of the multilateral system.

We welcome the initiatives by UNOOSA that allow for increased member state and expert interactions such as the UN Space Sustainability Days and the UN Space Bridge.

Next, the United Kingdom would like to thank Chile, Spain and South Africa for their work pertaining to Dark and Quiet Skies. We are pleased to be a member of the Group of Friends and we look forward to further discussions on this important subject.

We would also like to express our support for the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). The United Kingdom would like to thank Romania for their early efforts to establish an action team, specifically Mr. Dorin Prunariu for his efforts. We'd also like to thank Romania and Pakistan for their co-chair nominations. We are pleased to have Ms. Ulpia Botezatu and Mr. Hasan Abbas serving on the Bureau.

Chair, we will continue to be active in the STSC and in support of UNOOSA, including through funding programmes to help others to implement the Long-Term Sustainability guidelines.

The UK has actively engaged in cross-regional discussions, here in Vienna, and we look forward to continuing these discussions in the lead up to UNISPACE IV.

UNISPACE IV has the potential to create a step change in our ambition and engagement in peaceful uses, but only if we continue to engage constructively. The UK pledges to be a positive example in that regard.

Chair. Our work is only just beginning. We hope that our future is rooted in practical, open, informal and expert discussion. We need to focus on the mandate of COPUOS and seek to hear from every actor making a contribution to our collective endeavours.

Thank you Chair and to all of the participants at this session.