

United Kingdom, Item 13

UK Statement on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at the 62nd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, 3rd February - 14th February 2025

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The United Kingdom recognises the value of the 1992 Principles and the Safety Framework as essential guidelines for member States in developing and applying them to their national activities, ensuring the safe and responsible use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

We reaffirm our strong support for the work of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and value its significant achievements in recent years.

Building on the final report on the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, along with the recommendations for potential enhancements published under the United Kingdom's leadership two years ago, we emphasise the need for further work on the safety aspects of space systems utilising nuclear power sources, particularly nuclear fission reactors and innovative applications of radioisotope power systems.

We also recognise the development of a comprehensive 5-year workplan last year and are committed to contributing to its successful implementation during this and future sessions.

The United Kingdom expresses full support for the chairmanship of Mr Leopold Summerer from the Austrian delegation and welcome his suggestions for engaging the private sector in the workplan's implementation. The private, non-institutional sector is making notable progress in consolidating nuclear systems for space and exploring novel solutions. To ensure these efforts are effectively captured and leveraged, we must establish a suitable mechanism to track these developments,

incorporate lessons learnt, and integrate all relevant feedback into the Safety Framework.

The United Kingdom is dedicated to collaborating with Mr Summerer and the Working Group to achieve the objectives of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and advancing the next critical phase of ensuring the continued safe and responsible use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Thank you.