



**62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

**3-14 February 2025**

**Statement by Australia**

**Agenda item 3: General exchange of views and introduction of reports  
submitted on national activities**

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

Australia commends the Chair, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for their continued support of the Subcommittee.

We also welcome Djibouti and Latvia as new members of the Committee.

***Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities***

Chair,

Australia was saddened to learn of the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal of Poland, Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under the Legal Subcommittee.

Ambassador Misztal's contributions to the Committee's work have been extensive.

We express our condolences to Ambassador Misztal's family and all who knew him.

### ***Ukraine***

Chair,

Australia supports this Subcommittee to discuss and develop rules and norms that seek to support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

We also seek to ensure safety and stability here on Earth. As we approach three years since Russia's immoral and illegal invasion of Ukraine, Australia continues to condemn Russia's aggression, which is a gross violation of international law.

### ***Outer space in the Summit of the Future***

Chair,

As a State Party to the five United Nations space treaties, we reiterate that the Outer Space Treaty is the cornerstone of the international framework governing the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

Australia was pleased to attend the Summit of the Future. As a founding member of this Committee, we recall Action 56 of the Pact for the Future, which strengthens the Committee's role as the forum for intergovernmental cooperation on outer space. Australia continues to support this important work.

### ***Australian space activities***

Chair,

Australia has a rich history of space activities, and the Australian Government is investing over 3 billion Australian dollars (A\$) over the next 20 years in civil space capabilities, services and technologies.

Australia is pleased to have provided a summary of recent activities in the Australian space sector, included in the document *International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States*, published to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

More recently, the Australian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency co-hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in Perth from 26-29 November 2024, under the theme “*Collaborating to Build a Sustainable and Responsible Regional Space Sector.*” The week attracted more than 700 participants from over 30 countries, including from the Pacific, and fostered deeper connections across government, industry and academia. The Philippine Space Agency will co-host this year’s APRSAF and we look forward to attending.

***Long-term sustainability of outer space activities***

Chair,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

We look forward to further contributing to the work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities during this session.

Additionally, the Australian Government, through the Australian Space Agency, is developing an Australian sustainability of space activities policy. This work is complementary to Australia's contributions to this Subcommittee, and we will share more about it during this session.

***Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations***

Chair,

Australia warmly welcomes the consensus to include 'Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges' as a single issue / item on the draft provisional agenda of this Subcommittee; and will deliver a statement under this item.

***Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation***

Australia also welcomes the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). Australia is pleased to have arrived at consensus on the bureau, so that important discussions on the workplan of the ATLAC can commence.

***Sun, sand and space***

Chair,

2025 will be a busy year for Australia's space sector.

From 29 September to 3 October 2025, Australia will host the 76<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC) on the theme of '*Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth*'. The 76<sup>th</sup> IAC will offer a unique opportunity to further our collective understanding of space, and serve as a platform to exchange knowledge, present research, and form collaborations that will shape the future of space exploration and innovation.

We welcome you to join us in Sydney later this year. Thank you.