

AUSTRIA, ITEM 3

General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities

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

Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Madam Chair,

As this is the first time that I take personally the floor at this session, let me repeat that Austria fully supports your chairmanship and I thank Director Aarti Holla-Maini and her team for the excellent preparation of this meeting.

Austria expresses its alignment with and full support of the statement of the European Union under agenda item 3 as it was delivered on the first day of this session of the Subcommittee last Monday.

Let me start by warmly welcoming the two new member states of COPUOS, Latvia and Djibouti

In September 2024, UN-Member States adopted the **Pact for the Future**.

Action 56 contains important decisions for our work in UNCOPUOS. To us, especially the encouragement to further consult on the proposal to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027 is of particular importance.

We expect UNISPACE IV to be an important milestone for the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

We thank UNOOSA for supporting the decision-making process of the Member States and hope that the decision on the organisation of the conference will be adopted soon to allow sufficient time for substantive preparations.

The results of the **mid-term review on the Space 2030 Agenda**, which we need to carry out this year, can serve as a basis for the design of targeted and effective activities.

In this context, we thank **Germany** for hosting the **World Space Forum 2024 “Sustainable Space for Sustainability on Earth”** together with **Peru** and the **United Arab Emirates**. We see the World Space forum as an important platform to strengthen partnerships and continuous dialogue between the global community and for involving all relevant actors in the space sector, in particular the private sector, NGOs and young people.

Another opportunity to raise awareness for Outer Space Issues will be the **International Year of Planetary Defence and Asteroid Awareness in 2029**, supported by Austria. We see an important role for the **Space Mission Advisory Group SMPAG** in preparing possible events in the run-up and during the international year. We would like to thank IAWN and SMPAG for setting up clear communication-lines for the recent asteroid warning concerning a potential impact of asteroid 2024 YR 4 in 2032.

Austria welcomes the new agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies. We would like to thank the “Group of Friends (of the Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society)” for their suggestions for immediate actions as reflected in Conference Paper 22 to support the coexistence of satellite constellations and astronomical research.

Let me inform you about some national activities:

The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology serves as Austria's national authority for **authorizing and continuously supervising space activities**. Austria is in the process of licensing a CubeSat developed by the Vienna University of Technology – under the Austrian Outer Space Act, which has been in effect since 2011.

Finally, I would like to inform that Austria has signed the **Artemis Accords** on 11 December 2024. We see this initiative as a significant step in fostering international cooperation for the peaceful exploration of the Moon and expanding humanity's presence in Outer Space. By signing the Accords, Austria **reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful, responsible and cooperative use of outer space**, while also underlining its support for strong **multilateral partnerships and scientific progress**.

Austria remains a strong supporter of UNCOPUOS and we assure you once again, Chair, of our full support for a successful session 2025.

Thank you.