

**62nd Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS),**

Vienna, 3 – 14 February 2025

Agenda item 3: General exchange of views

Statement by Bulgaria

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the EU statement on this agenda item.

Bulgaria is a strong supporter of multilateralism, with the UN at its core. Multilateralism plays a vital role in maintaining peace and security, as it fosters cooperation among nations. This collaborative approach is closely linked to development, including the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, it has no alternative and makes unacceptable illegal actions violating UN Charter such as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

In this regard, I would like to express Bulgaria's strong commitment to support the work of UNOOSA and COPUOS, as well to thank Director Aarti Holla-Maini and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this session. I would also like to thank you, Madam Chair Botezatu, and commend you for the skilful steering of the work of the STSC. You can rely on our delegation's full support.

I would also like to extend Bulgaria's warm welcome to the new members of COPUOS, Latvia and Djibouti, and congratulate them on this important development.

Chair,

Driven by scientific research and innovation, space technologies and space activities are becoming increasingly important and indispensable for our daily lives and wellbeing, as well as for creating economic growth and supporting the green and digital transition. This results in growing number of space actors, space objects and space activities, but also in urgent need to create and implement effective norms to ensure the safety and sustainability of outer space for the future generations.

The work of COPUOS, its Subcommittees and working groups is essential in this regard, for finding solutions to ensure that space is used peacefully and in a sustainable manner. An important part of these discussions is the establishment of new frameworks for space traffic, space debris and space resources, as well as discussions on international consultative mechanism on sustainable lunar activities. In this regard Bulgaria welcomes the Decision on the co-chairmanship of the Action Team on Lunar Activities by Pakistan and Romania, which paves the way for substantial discussions during this session.

Chair,

The critical role of the safe and sustainable use of outer space in achieving the 2030 Agenda was also recognized in the Pact for the Future adopted last year. The holding of UNISPACE IV in 2027 is an opportunity to foster the work of COPUOS and the implementation of its mandate in this crucial moment for the global development and the implementation of the SDGs. Bulgaria supports the ideas of UNOOSA' non-paper and the approach set out in the CRP, presented by Italy and Marocco.

Bulgaria has long been an active contributor to global space efforts. With over 50 years of experience in space research and technology, we continue to build on our achievements in areas such as satellite communications, space food production, nanosatellite development, and Earth observation systems. Our expertise extends to green and digital transition projects that utilize space technology for monitoring environmental changes, optimizing energy resources, and enhancing agricultural and forest management. Last month the Bulgarian satellite "Balkan-1", developed by the leading Bulgarian company "EnduroSat", was launched into orbit as part of EU's "Copernicus" program. Balkan will supply images with 1.5 meter resolution critical for agricultural monitoring, forestry, land cover change management, climate impact as well as biodiversity and plant monitoring.

Sustainability is a key priority. Bulgaria remains committed to the effective implementation of the COPUOS Guidelines on Long-Term Sustainability and Space Debris Mitigation and has joined the European Space Agency's Zero Debris Charter, working toward a debris-neutral space by 2030. We recognize the importance of preserving the night sky for scientific observation and support efforts to address the unintended impacts of large satellite constellations on astronomy. In this regard, we welcome the discussions under the new agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies, Astronomy, and Large Constellations.

As we advance in space exploration, we must also invest in the future generation. Engaging young minds in space research and innovation is crucial for long-term progress. In this regard, Bulgaria has been actively fostering youth participation through initiatives such as the annual science festival "HELLO, SPACE! Bulgaria Calling!", which encourages curiosity and education in space-related fields.

Looking ahead, Bulgaria remains dedicated to strengthening international cooperation in space exploration and technology. We believe that by fostering innovation, supporting emerging space economies, and ensuring responsible space governance, we can collectively harness the full potential of space for the benefit of all humankind.

Thank you.