

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
62nd Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (STSC)
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Statement of the Republic of Latvia, Agenda Item 3
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- Dear ladies and gentlemen, honourable Chair,
- First of all, I would like to thank the member states of COPUOS for welcoming Latvia to the Committee, and also congratulate Djibouti on joining this committee.
- We strongly support the rules-based international order in space activities. A multilateral approach ensures the safe and sustainable use of space for the benefit of all.
- I am glad to inform that Latvia is on good track to join the Outer Space Treaty¹ this year.
- The aims of this committee are strongly aligned with Latvia's interests in earth observation, including in the context of climate change, disaster management and security.
- Latvia is a member of the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking consortium, which engages with space traffic security and space debris. We join the call on all COPUOS members to avoid, to the greatest extent possible, the creation of space debris.
- Latvian research institutions through strong competences and unique radio telescope infrastructure are members of international networks such as JIV-ERIC and LOFAR-ERIC².
- Latvia is also an associate member of the European Space Agency and actively participates in its activities and projects. Over 50 companies in Latvia are contributing to innovations in the space industry, which have implemented over 120 innovative projects since 2015.
- I would like to assure the committee that Latvia offers its full support in reaching the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- We encourage further progress in the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities on the implementation of the existing 21 Guidelines, capacity building needs, and new challenges.
- Latvia is concerned about the current international context affecting multilateral work, including cooperation on outer space issues. We strongly condemn Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine.
- Latvia supports the UN Pact for the Future, which focuses on strengthening international cooperation in governance of space traffic, space debris and space resources. Latvia would like to thank UNOOSA and its Director Aarti Holla-Maini for leadership in this work.
- Thank you, Chair.

¹ UN resolution 2222(XXI) Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

² JIV-ERIC – Joint Institute for Very Long Baseline Interferometry European Research Infrastructure Consortium (JIVE); LOFAR-ERIC –LOW Frequency ARray European Research Infrastructure Consortium.