

National Space Society Statement to UN COPUOS STSC 2025,
Item 3 General Exchange of Views

Distinguished Chair, Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address this esteemed body on behalf of the National Space Society (NSS). As a global nonprofit dedicated to the peaceful exploration, development, and settlement of space, NSS serves as a bridge between the scientific community, policymakers, and the public—fostering collaboration and advancing humanity's vision for a sustainable and inclusive space future. NSS has been honored to serve as a permanent observer of COPUOS for 21 years.

Founded nearly half a century ago, NSS is proud to be a thought leader in space exploration and development. We provide a platform for dialogue and innovation, engaging individuals and organizations worldwide. With over 50,000 members, NSS represents a diverse coalition of space advocates. Our *Ad Astra* magazine, reaching 10,000 print readers quarterly and 40,000 digital viewers, exemplifies our commitment to public engagement. Additionally, our YouTube channel, with 13,200 subscribers and over 3.5 million views, amplifies our reach, along with 120,000 Facebook followers and active community groups. Our President's YouTube channel, *Science and Futurism with Isaac Arthur*, boasts over 800,000 subscribers, while our affiliated podcast, *This Week in Space*, has 25,000 listeners.

NSS is committed to empowering the next generation of global space leaders. Our student programs, including the Space Settlement Design Contests and Competitions, engage over 30,000 students world-wide annually, fostering innovation and hands-on experience in space systems design. The Rothblatt *Space Settlement in Our Lifetime* Business Plan Competition, supported by Sirius XM founder Dr. Martine Rothblatt, challenges entrepreneurs to develop business solutions for space settlement and infrastructure.

NSS also convenes global space leaders, policymakers, and visionaries through two flagship events: the International Space Development Conference® (ISDC®) and the Space Settlement Summit. The ISDC, held annually, brings together experts to discuss advancements in space technology, policy, and settlement, with an average attendance of 1,000 participants. The Space Settlement Summit is a focused gathering of thought leaders dedicated to addressing the challenges of long-term human expansion into space. These events reinforce NSS's role as a hub for fostering partnerships, sharing knowledge, and inspiring bold initiatives in space exploration and development.

NSS recognizes the importance of international coordination in lunar exploration and development. We commend those whose dedication led to the creation of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). As humanity embarks on a sustained lunar presence, cooperative frameworks for lunar operations are essential to ensure safe, sustainable, and transparent activities. ATLAC represents a milestone in fostering international dialogue on critical operational challenges such as landing site coordination, resource utilization, and environmental protection. We commend the organizers for ensuring transparent representation

from both Artemis Accords signatories and International Lunar Research Station participants, reinforcing an inclusive approach to addressing operational challenges on the lunar surface. NSS is committed to supporting these efforts and contributing insights that promote international cooperation in lunar activities.

At this year's STSC, NSS is proud to support COPUOS through multiple technical presentations, offering insights across a broad spectrum of topics. In addition, NSS develops reports and white papers to support informed decision-making among delegates. One key contribution is the NSS Space Solar Power Report, which analyzes the feasibility, benefits, and global impact of space-based solar power (SSP). This report highlights how SSP could transform energy sustainability, reduce carbon emissions, and drive international cooperation. NSS has also published a policy paper proposing a balanced approach to Dark and Quiet Skies, fostering collaboration between astronomers and commercial space stakeholders to ensure sustainable space development while preserving scientific discovery.

We remain engaged in discussions surrounding the Space2030 Agenda and are actively contributing to UNOOSA's midterm review of this critical framework.

In conclusion, NSS remains steadfast in its mission to advance the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of all and stand ready to support all members of COPOUS. Through our research, publications, and global advocacy, we are dedicated to supporting this committee's vital work and shaping a future where space exploration and development benefit all of humanity, both on Earth and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.