



Statement by Slovenia,

**62nd Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations
Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,**

Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views (Vienna, 3 February 2025)

Madame Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Before proceeding with our statement, my delegation wishes to express its deepest condolences to the Polish delegation, as well as to the colleagues and friends of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal.

Allow me first to align my statement to the statement of the European Union, to which I would add few points important for Slovenia.

The Slovenian delegation extends its sincere support and gratitude for your exemplary leadership. We also wish to express our deep appreciation for the exceptional efforts of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), under the dedicated leadership of its Director, Mrs. Aarti Holla-Maini, in organizing and preparing this important session.

It is my privilege to share a significant milestone for Slovenia. On 1 January 2025, Slovenia became the 23rd Member State of the European Space Agency (ESA). This achievement represents the culmination of years of concerted efforts by our government, industry and research institutions, underscoring our steadfast commitment to promoting safe, secure, sustainable, resilient, and peaceful activities in outer space.

In this context, Slovenia wishes to congratulate Germany, the United Arab Emirates, Peru, and UNOOSA for the excellent organization of the World Space Forum held last December in Bonn. We were honored to participate and to have our representative contribute to discussions on the critical importance of space

traffic management. Slovenia strongly supports the establishment of a dedicated group within the Committee to explore the legal, policy, technical, and operational aspects of space traffic. We firmly believe that international cooperation on outer space matters is indispensable; only through collaborative efforts and enhanced information-sharing protocols can we achieve effective interoperability between national, private, and global space situational awareness systems. Furthermore, we reiterate the importance of multistakeholder inclusion as a cornerstone for ensuring the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space.

We also express our support for the organization of UNISPACE IV in 2027, which we hope will yield tangible outcomes in addressing the pressing challenges of space traffic management, long-term sustainability, and space resource utilization.

While we started this year filled with optimism and excitement about the opportunities ahead, we cannot overlook the grave realities shaping the global context. In this regard, Slovenia strongly condemns Russia's illegal and unprovoked war on Ukraine, which represents a blatant violation of international law. We are compelled to join the delegations objecting to the affiliation between the United Nations and the proposed regional center for space science and technology education in the Russian Federation. Such affiliations undermine the fundamental principles of peace and international cooperation that this body stands for.

In an era marked by increasing global challenges, Slovenia firmly believes that international cooperation and a multilateral approach are essential to the advancement of the global space sector. We warmly welcome the outcomes of the Pact for the Future and Action 56, which prioritize strengthening international collaboration in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes, ensuring benefits for all humanity. Over the next two weeks, we eagerly anticipate constructive and inclusive discussions, particularly on the critical topics of space traffic management, the long-term sustainability of outer space, and the utilization of space resources. Specifically regarding space traffic, and challenges of space debris to safety of space objects, we view the roles of COPUOS and UNOOSA as indispensable in guiding the international community toward viable and lasting solutions.

Slovenia takes immense pride in its unwavering commitment to sustainability. The Slovenian Space Activities Act of 2022 formally incorporates the 21 Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) Guidelines, reflecting our proactive approach to responsible space activities. It is our firm conviction that all stakeholders within the global space sector bear a shared responsibility to act with diligence and foresight. While we commend the ongoing capacity-building initiatives, we emphasize that the involvement of our industry partners is pivotal to the successful implementation of these Guidelines.

We remain steadfast in our dedication to fostering sustainable and cooperative practices in outer space and look forward to contributing constructively to this critical dialogue.

Thank you, Madame Chair