

Sweden
General Statement
62nd Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of
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[Check against delivery]

Chair,

Please allow me to express our gratitude to you and your team and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to thank the director of UNOOSA and her team for all their work.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I would like to add the following in a national capacity.

COPUOS and its Subcommittees are unique platforms for us to strengthen space governance and advance the safe and sustainable use of space. We welcome the adoption of the Pact for the Future, which highlights once again the importance of the Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing space activities. The Outer Space Treaty must be fully implemented and we urge more states to accede to it. Furthermore, Sweden supports the proposal to organize a UNISPACE IV-conference, and we look forward to our further consultations. We also welcome the mid-term review of the Space 2030 Agenda this year.

Sweden supports the active participation of women in all space activities and fora. We congratulate Kenya on successfully hosting the Space for Women Expert Meeting last November. The landmark study on Gender Equality in the Space Sector published in the fall by UNOOSA is a concrete and important contribution to our objective to advancing gender equality, in addition to the gender mainstreaming toolkit.

We welcome the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation and look forward to our substantive discussions and collaboration on these issues.

On the topic of Dark and Quiet Skies, and the challenge of light pollution for science and society, Sweden welcomes the inclusion of this issue on the agenda of the subcommittee.

Chair,

Also this year, the STSC is convening during an extremely challenging time. The unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression by the Russian Federation and the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory, is a flagrant violation of the UN charter and international law. We continue to condemn these actions, stand with Ukraine and urge the Russian Federation to cease its illegal military aggression and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Chair,

Sweden is a firm believer in multilateralism and the rules-based international order. Our national space strategy underlines the importance of international cooperation and defines space as a global common. We remain committed to promoting the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment. And we remain committed to the peaceful use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. As a complement to our national space strategy from 2018, this past summer, the government adopted Sweden's first defense and security space strategy.

In Sweden, the space industry continues to make great advancements. The Esrange Space Centre has had more than 600 successful launches of sounding rockets. The center also accommodates one of the world's largest civilian satellite ground stations, as well as European launch capability for small satellites.

The Swedish government continues to invest in the space sector. Since 2020, the Esrange Space Centre has also developed and tested rocket engines and reusable space technology. Conducting national space activities in a safe, secure and sustainable manner is of utmost importance to Sweden.

The increasing amount of space debris is therefore of great concern. We firmly believe that states through national regulation of space activities play pivotal roles in mitigating the creation of debris.

Chair,

Sweden fully supports the continued work of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. We want to emphasize the important task that rests on Member States to continue the implementation of the adopted guidelines.

These guidelines enshrine many transparency and confidence building measures. With a better understanding of the development of the global space sector, we decrease risks of misunderstandings and miscalculations.

Sweden also contributes to the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking capabilities. We welcome the development of regional Space Traffic Management initiatives, as they increase transparency and help building confidence among space actors in a rapidly evolving environment.

Chair,

To conclude, Sweden remains actively engaged in multilateral cooperation on space issues. We look forward to working together to ensure a productive session. I thank you.