



Introduction to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space





What is COPUOS?

Subsidiary Organ of UN General Assembly

- 1958: Established as an ad-hoc committee
- **1959: Established as a permanent body: Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (resolution 1472 (XIV))**

Mandate

- Review **international cooperation** in the peaceful uses of outer space
- Identify space-related **activities** that could be undertaken **by the UN**
- Organize **mutual exchange/dissemination of information** on outer space research; encourage **space research** programmes
- **Study legal problems** arising from the exploration of outer space.

Decision-making by consensus

- Agreement at its second meeting, 19 March 1962

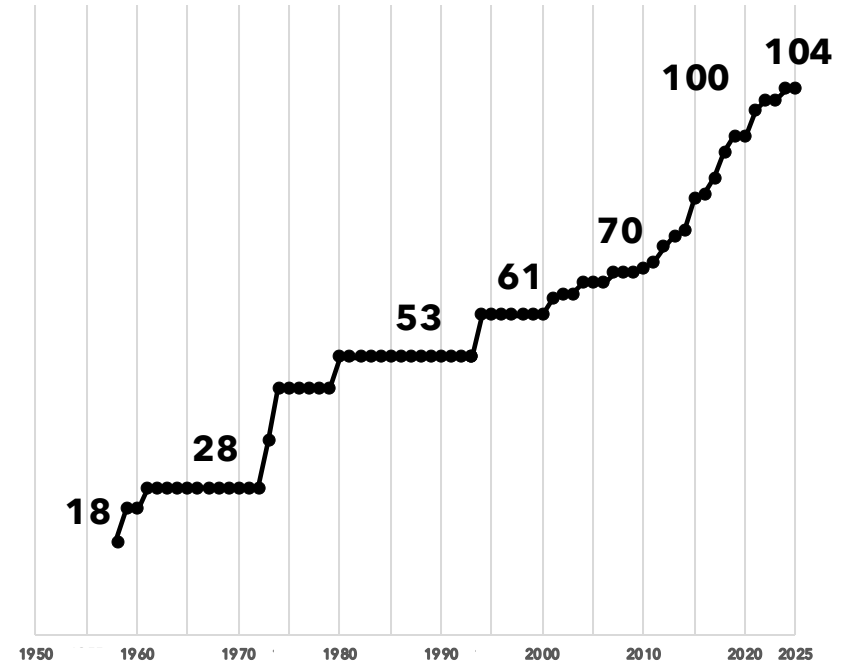


1st meeting of COPUOS as ad-hoc committee, May 1959

Secretariat = Outer Space Affairs Division (resolution 1721 (B) (XVI) 1961), predecessor to Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA)



Unique global forum for international cooperation in space activities





African States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

Asia-Pacific States: Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

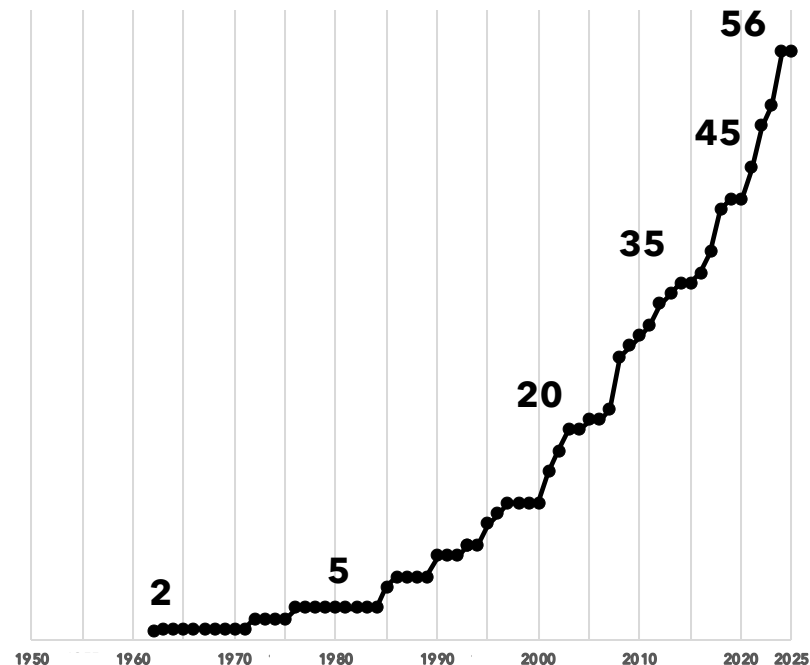
Eastern European States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Western European and other States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America



- **General Assembly (Res. 1721 (XVI), 1961):**
 - **Maintain close contact with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with outer space matters**
- **Contributions to the work of COPUOS from a wide range of international IGOs & NGOs**
 - **Entities of the United Nations system (e.g. WMO, UNESCO, ITU)**
 - **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**





United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

African Space Agency, Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space (ACES Worldwide), International Council on Monuments and Sites, Lunar Policy Platform Foundation, AeroAI Global Solutions, Inc., Women in Aerospace Europe to join

56 Observers

- Access Space Alliance
- African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)
- African Astronomical Society (AfAS)
- African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS)
- The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)
- Association International Research Centre for the Development of the Atlantic
- Association of Space Explorers (ASE)
- Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World (ARSCAW)
- CANEUS-International
- Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
- Centre Regional de teledetection des Etats de l'Afrique du Nord (CRTEAN)
- Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)
- European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY)
- European Astronomical Society
- European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO)
- European Science Foundation, represented by the European Space Sciences Committee (ESF)
- European Space Agency (ESA)
- European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)
- European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO)
- European Union (EU)
- For All Moonkind
- Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA)
- Hague Institute for Global Justice
- International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)
- International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- International Astronomical Union (IAU)
- Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation
- International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS)
- IIASA: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)
- International Institute of Space Law (IISL)
- International Law Association (ILA)
- International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
- Inter Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET)
- International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK)
- International Organization of Standardization (ISO)
- International Peace Alliance (Space)
- International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- International Space University (ISU)
- International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)
- Moon Village Association
- National Space Society (NSS)
- Open Lunar Foundation
- Outer Space Institute (OSI)
- Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW)
- Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)
- Secure World Foundation (SWF)
- Space Data Association (SDA)
- Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
- Space Renaissance International (SRI)
- Square Kilometre Array Observatory
- Three Country - Trusted Broker
- The Planetary Society (TPS)
- UNISEC-Global: University Space Engineering Consortium-Global (UNISEC-Global)
- WSWA: World Space Week Association



INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW

UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS



Treaties

Outer Space Treaty, 1967
Rescue Agreement, 1968
Liability Convention, 1972
Registration Convention, 1975
Moon Agreement of 1979



Principles

**Declaration of Legal Principles on
Outer Space Activities 1963**
Broadcasting Principles 1982
Remote Sensing Principles 1986
**Nuclear Power Sources Principles
1992**
**Declaration on International
Cooperation for the Benefits and
in the Interest of All States 1996**



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

GUIDELINES FOR THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Resolutions

- **Launching State, 2004**
- **Registration Practice, 2007**
- **National Space Legislation, 2013**

Other Documents

- **Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, 2007**
- **Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources, 2009**
- **Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, 2019**



UNISPACE 1968



UN Programme on Space Applications

UNISPACE 82 1982



Expansion of UN Programme on Space Applications; UN-affiliated Regional Centre for Space Science & Technology Education

UNISPACE III 1999



12 Action Teams

→ UN-SPIDER (disaster management), ICG (GNSS), SGH Network & SGH Platform (public health), SMPAG & IAWN (near-Earth objects)



2018 50th anniversary of 1st UNISPACE



"Space2030" Agenda



Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

2 - 13 February 2026

Legal Subcommittee

13 - 24 April 2026

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

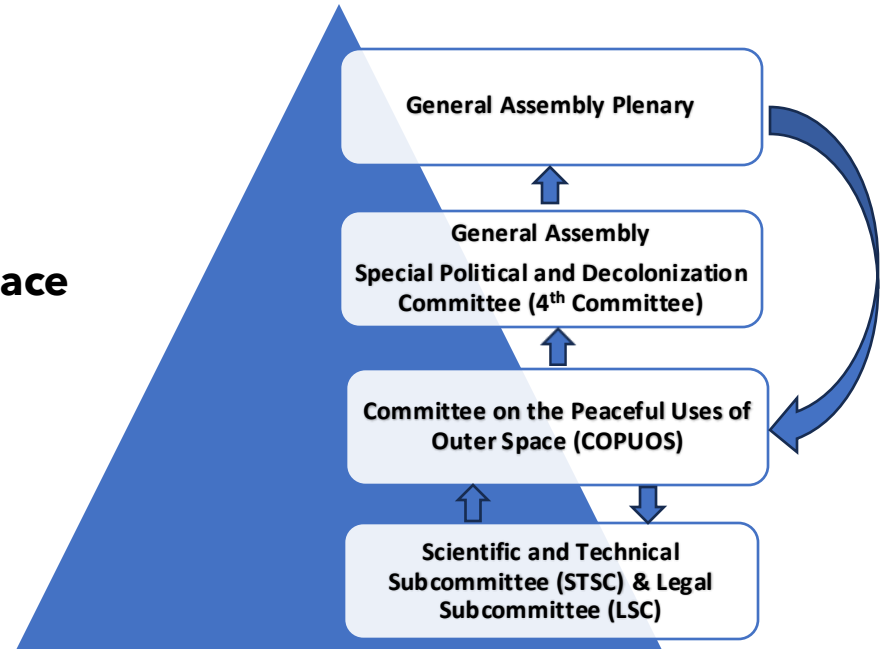
10 - 19 June 2026

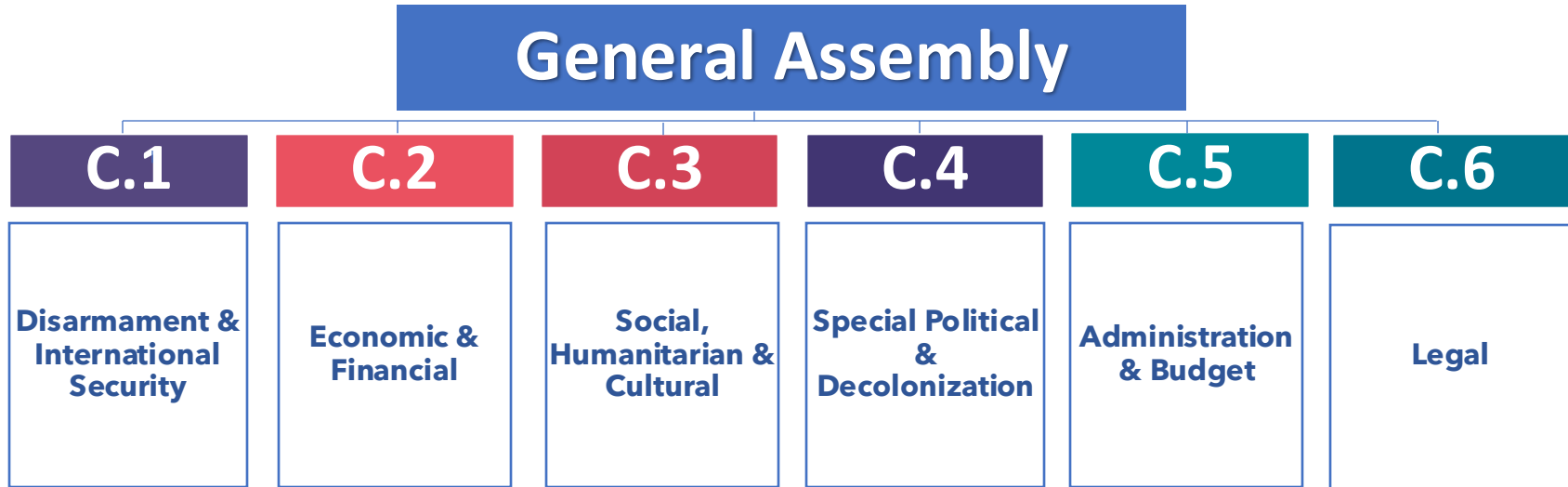
General Assembly Fourth Committee

End October-beginning November 2026

Action by General Assembly Plenary

December 2026



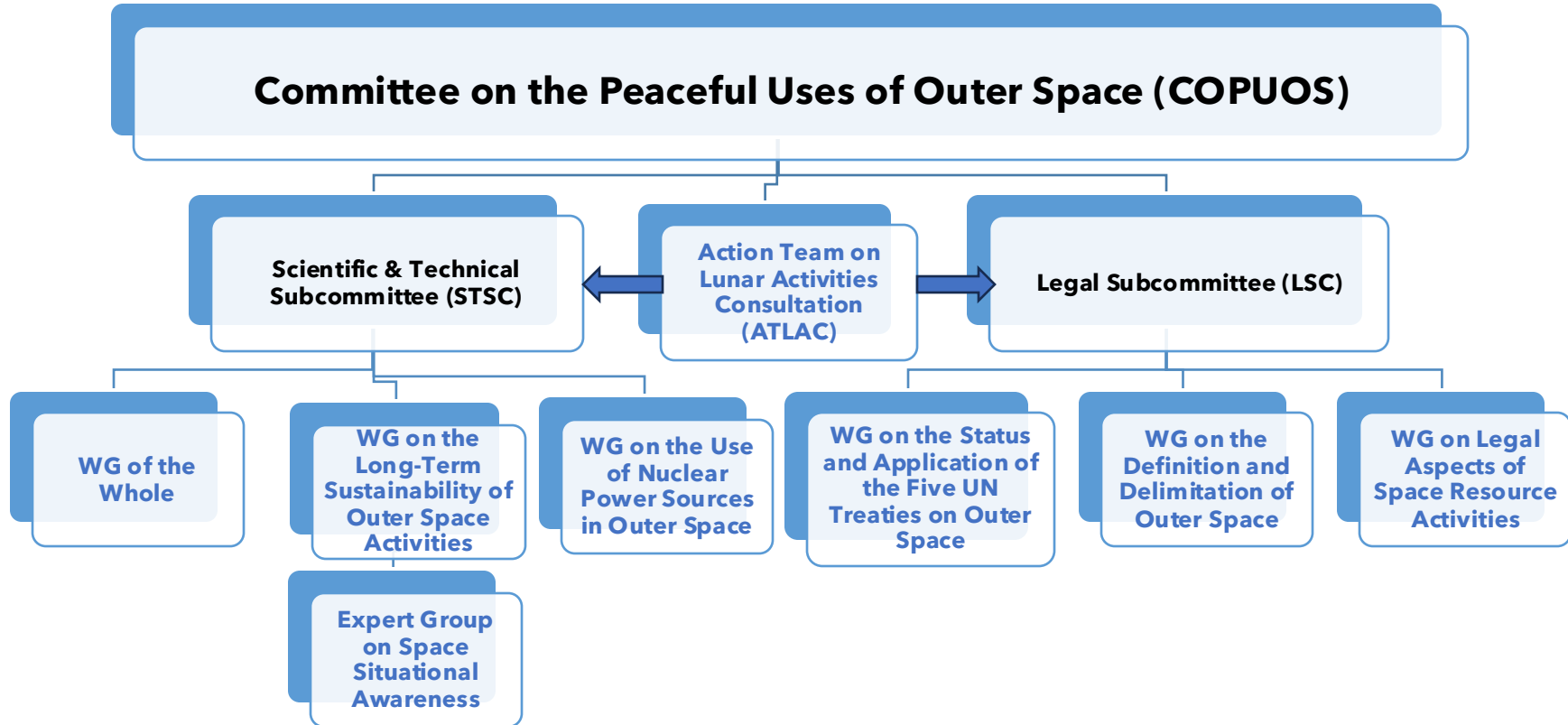


C.4 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

C.1 and C.4 Joint panel discussions on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

C.5 Programme budget (Sect. 6 = OOSA (COPUOS secretariat); Sect. 2 = DGACM (conference service))

C.6 Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs





	2024-2025	2026-2027	2028-2029
COPUOS Chair	Sherif M. Sedky (Egypt) 2024 Rafiq Akram (Morocco) 2025	Teodoro Valente (Italy)	Latin America and Caribbean States
COPUOS 1st Vice-Chair	Juan Francisco Facetti F. (Paraguay)	Melita Župevc (Slovenia)	Asia-Pacific States
COPUOS 2nd Vice-Chair / Rapporteur	Hasan Abbas (Pakistan) 2024 Hesa Al-Khalifa (Bahrain) 2025	Akeem Bebatunde Rabiou (Nigeria)	Western European and other States
STSC Chair	Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania)	Pakorn Apaphant (Thailand) 2026 Yaqoob Alqassab (Bahrain) 2027	African States
LSC Chair	Santiago Ripol C. (Spain)	Pablo A. Arrocha Olabuenaga (Mexico) 2026; Natanael Pineda Rodriguez (Panama) 2027	Eastern European States



Regional group	First year: 2004 <i>(agreement in 2003)^b</i>	Second year: 2005 <i>(agreement in 2003)^b</i>	Third year: 2006 <i>(agreement in 2004)^b</i>	Fourth year: 2007 <i>(agreement in 2004)^b</i>	Fifth year: 2008 <i>(agreement in 2006)^b</i>	Sixth year: 2009 <i>(agreement in 2006)^b</i>	Seventh year: 2010 <i>(agreement in 2008)^b</i>	Eighth year: 2011 <i>(agreement in 2008)^b</i>	Ninth year: 2012 <i>(agreement in 2010)^b</i>	Tenth year: 2013 <i>(agreement in 2010)^b</i>	First year: 2014 ^a <i>(agreement in 2012)^b</i>	Second year: 2015 <i>(agreement in 2012)^b</i>
Group of African States	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee
Group of Asian States	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee
Group of Eastern European States	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee
Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG)	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee

^a The system of rotation will follow the same sequence after the tenth year of the cycle; thus, the distribution of responsibilities will be the same in 2014 as in 2004, the same in 2016 as in 2006 etc.

^b Year in which agreement is to be reached within the regional groups and among the members of the Committee.



Subsidiary bodies (STSC)

Working Group of the Whole (STSC)

- **Chair: Prakash Chauhan (India)**
- **Secretary: Aygul Duysenhanova**
- **Space for sustainable development:**
 - ✓ Space technology and its applications, incl. UN Programme on Space Applications
- **Future role and method of work of the Committee**
- **Draft provisional agenda for the following session**

Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (STSC)

- **Chair: Leopold Summerer (Austria)**
- **Secretary: Romana Kofler**
- **Implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources (NPS) in Outer Space**
- **Potential future uses of NPS in outer space, esp. those involving nuclear reactors**
- **5-year workplan (2024-2028), with intersessional meetings**
 - ✓ Challenges to the implementation of the Safety Framework

Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (STSC)

- **Chair: Umamaheswaran R. (India)**
- **Secretary: Tanya Keusen**
- **Three elements of the mandate:**
 - ✓ Identify challenges to the long-term sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities
 - ✓ Share experiences & lessons learned implementing the LTS Guidelines
 - ✓ Raise awareness and building capacity in the framework of the LTS Guidelines.
- **5-year workplan, results in 2026; with intersessional meetings (WG extended beyond 2026 under the current Chair)**



Working Group on the Five UN Treaties on Outer Space (LSC)

- **Chair:** Franziska Knur (Germany)
- **Secretary:** Yukiko Okumura
- **Implementation of Article XI, Outer Space Treaty**
 - States to inform the UN Secretary-General, the public and the international scientific community, of the nature, conduct, locations and results of activities in outer space, incl. the Moon and other celestial bodies
- **3-year work plan (2025 - 2027)**
- **Sharing information on:**
 - ✓ Status of international agreements relating to space activities
 - ✓ Schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities

Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (LSC)

- **Chair:** Steven Freeland (Australia)
- **Vice Chair:** Ayman M. M. Ahmed (Egypt)
- **Secretary:** Rosanna M. Hoffmann
- **Develop a set of initial recommended principles for space resource activities**
 - ✓ Reviewing the initial draft set
- **Final review and refinement of the summary of discussions on the existing legal framework for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources**
- **5-year workplan (2023-2027), with intersessional meetings**

Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space (LSC)

- **Chair:** Ian Grosner (Brazil)
- **Secretary:** Tanya Keusen
- **2021: LSC agreement to reconvene every second year (next meeting = 2027)**
- **Information on national legislation/practices relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and airspace**
- **Proposals regarding the need to define and delimit outer space, or justifying the absence of such a need**
- **Questionnaire: space traffic management, suborbital flights**
- **Practical cases that would warrant definition/delimitation**



Subsidiary bodies/ consultations (Latest)

Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness (WG-LTS/STSC)

- **Chair:** Fatima S. Al Shamsi (United Arab Emirates)
- **Secretary:** Rosanna M. Hoffmann
- Greater awareness & cooperation on space traffic info. and info. sharing
- Existing and/or new measures & best practices to achieve consistency of data formats; understanding and use of space situational awareness (SSA) information-sharing practices
- International cooperation, incld. capacity-building
- 4-year work plan (2025-2028), **with intersessional meetings**
- Report to WG-LTS/STSC

Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) (COPUOS)

- **Co-Chairs:**
 - Ulpia-Botezatu (Romania)
 - Hasan Abas (Pakistan)
- **Secretary:** Minjoo Jang
- Focused, expert-level exchanges to develop recommendations aimed at improving consultations related to lunar activities
 - Consider different options, incld. the establishment of an international mechanism
- Elaboration of draft recommendations
- 3-year work plan (2025-2027), **with intersessional meetings**
- Report to STSC/LSC/COPUOS under agenda item **"Future role and methods of work"**

Consultations on convening UNISPACE IV in 2027 (COPUOS)

- **Co-facilitators:** Italy and Morocco
- **Secretariat:** OOSA as a whole
- Proposal with the objectives, form, venue, dates, participants, organization and scope, and financial aspects (2025 COPUOS Report, A/80/20, annex II)
- Possible funding arrangements to be assessed
 - ✓ Impact of GA decisions on the 2026 revised budget
 - ✓ Availability of extrabudgetary contributions on possible funding arrangements for UNISPACE IV to be assessed
- **intersessional meetings (2025)**
- Report to STSC/LSC/COPUOS under agenda item **"Future role and methods of work"**



Topics on the agenda

**Sustainability
of Outer Space**

**Space
Resources**

**Lunar
Activities**

Space Debris

**Asteroid
Warning**

**Sustainable
Development**

Space & Water

**UN Treaties on
Outer Space**

**Nuclear Power
Sources**

GNSS

Global Health

**Dark & Quiet
Skies - Large
Constellations**

**Disaster
Management**

**Space Traffic /
Situational
Awareness**

**Climate
Change**

**Definition
Delimitation
of Outer Space**



Benefits of Joining COPUOS

- Enhance national expertise in using space-based applications and space law.
- Understand the role space can play for socio-economic development.
- Exchange good practices and lessons learned in the application of space science & technology, as well as space policy and law.
- Network with other established or emerging spacefaring nations on the civil use of space and develop partnerships.
- Contribute to the development of international space law.

No additional fee!

 UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs



How to join the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) Fourth Committee, based in Vienna. COPUOS was established in 1959 and is serviced by its Secretariat, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

The membership of COPUOS has grown from 24 in 1959 to 102 States members in 2022. The historical evolution of COPUOS's membership is [here](#).

COPUOS has consensually negotiated the [Treaties](#), Principles, Guidelines, and resolutions that form the global governance of outer space activities. This legal framework underpins national space activities.

COPUOS addresses important topics such as: sustainable development; space debris mitigation and remediation; the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; space resource utilization; space traffic management; space and global health; and capacity-building.

WHY JOIN?

Membership of COPUOS will allow your country to:

- Enhance your national expertise in using space-based applications and space law.
- Understand the role space can play for socio-economic development.
- Exchange good practices and lessons learned in the application of space science and technology, as well as space policy and law.
- Network with other established or emerging spacefaring nations on the civil use of space.
- Contribute to the development of international space law.

COPUOS holds six weeks of annual sessions: the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC); the Legal Subcommittee (LSC); and the main session. The UNGA adopts COPUOS' consensus-based outputs each year.



    @UNOOSA



United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs

CONTACT US!

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