

COPUOS AND GOVERNANCE

UN/Spain/IAU Conference on Dark and Quiet Skies for
Science and Society, 3-7 October 2021

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UNOOSA



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of outer Space (COPUOS)



1958 ad hoc body. 1959 established as permanent body (GA resolution 1472 (XIV))

- ❑ Developing international space law
 - Has created 5 treaties (OST, ARRA, LIAB, REG, MOON) and 5 principles (Legal Declaration, Television Broadcasting, Remote Sensing, NPS, Benefits Declaration)
 - Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines
 - Safety framework for nuclear power sources (NPS)
 - Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines)
 - GA resolutions on launching State, registration practice, national space legislation. Study on international frameworks
- ❑ COPUOS has expanded the number of States members from 18 (1958) to 95 (2020). Has 42 permanent observer organizations (IGO and NGO)
- ❑ Two subcommittees: Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) and Legal Subcommittee (LSC)
- ❑ COPUOS reports annually to GA Fourth Committee – resolution on “international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”



95 States members of COPUOS

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

Bahrain, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

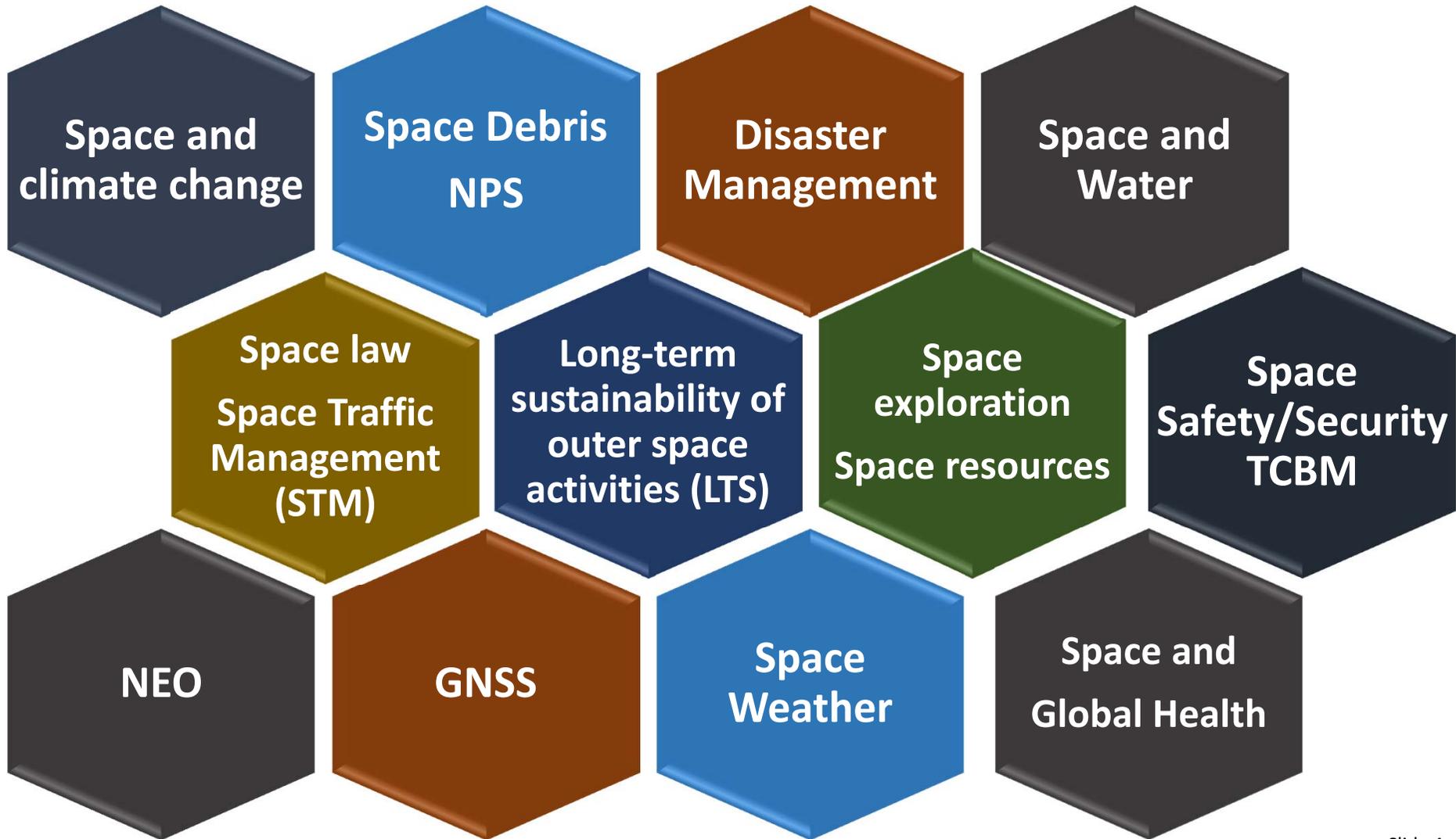
(Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, Slovenia recommended for membership 2021)



COPUOS mandate

1959: UN General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV) reaffirmed the role of COPUOS and mandated the Committee to:

- Review international co-operation
- Study space-related activities that could be undertaken under United Nations auspices
- Encourage and assist with national space research programmes
- Study legal problems which may arise from the exploration of outer space





Governance phases of COPUOS

1960 – 1980: Treaties

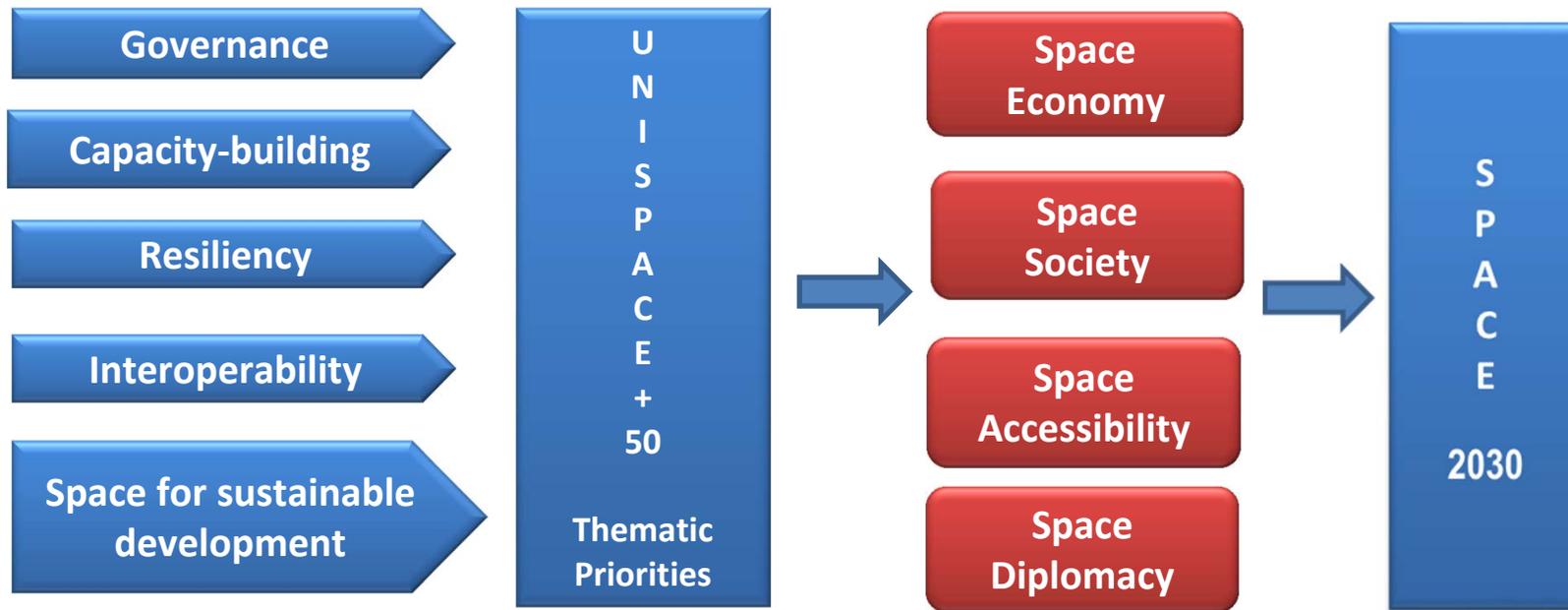
1980 – 2000: Principles

2000 – 2020: Resolutions, Guidelines

2020 - ...



UNISPACE+50 process





Highlights of COPUOS 2021

Hybrid format/160 statements/38 technical presentations/3 working groups

- 95+5 new States members = **100!** (Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, Slovenia)
- 3 new observers (UNIDROIT and SKAO as IGOs and Open Lunar Foundation as NGO)
- Endorsement of the “Space2030” Agenda (to be adopted by GA Plenary October 2021)
- Endorsement of ToR and methods of work of LSC WG on Space Resources
- Progress in way ahead of STSC WG on LTS
- Agreement on establishment of Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in the Eurasian Region, affiliated to the United Nations
- Recommendation on GA proclamation of annual International Moon Day 20 July
- Movement intersessionally on Dark and Quiet Skies towards STSC agenda item 2022

THANK YOU



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