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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Sixtieth session  
Vienna, 7-16 June 2017

**Application for membership of the Committee on the  
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Norway**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The present document contains a copy of the application of Norway for membership with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Note Verbale of the Permanent Mission of Norway to the International Organizations in Vienna, containing the application of Norway, was received by the Secretariat on 31 May 2017 and was circulated to member States of the Committee in a note verbale OOSA/2017/11 CU 2017/208/OOSA/CPLA of 1 June 2017.

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

1-2017-40/JES

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Norway to the United Nations and International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and has the honour to inform that Norway has decided to apply for membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

Background information regarding Norway's space industry may be found attached to this *note verbale*.

The Norwegian Permanent Mission would be most grateful if the Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs could circulate this *note verbale* to the current member states of COPUOS to inform them of Norway's membership application.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Norway to the United Nations and International Organisations in Vienna takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the International Organizations in Vienna kindly requests the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 31 May 2017



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## **Background information regarding Norway's application to join the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

Norway has a long tradition as a space nation. Sounding rockets have been launched from the Andøya Space Center since the 1960s. Since then, an active and diverse space sector has emerged in Norway.

At present, Norway has four microsattellites in low-Earth orbit, four telecommunications satellites in geostationary orbit and one in graveyard orbit. Some are owned by the state, others by commercial actors. Several more satellites are scheduled to be launched over the next few years, including three microsattellites in 2017/2018.

The Norwegian space industry is internationally competitive in many areas, including ground station operations, telecommunications, downstream applications and the development of structures and electronics for different types of satellites. Andøya Space Center is currently carrying out a technical feasibility study to explore the potential for launching small satellites from its facilities. The Norwegian space industry is also looking into developing innovative new launching concepts.

Norway also has a vibrant scientific community that is engaged in research on a broad range of issues, from solar physics, the structure of the universe, space weather, and the cultivation of plants on the International Space Station, to the development of hardware and software for space missions.

The majority of Norway's space activities are carried out in connection with our participation in the space programmes of the European Space Agency, EUMETSAT and the European Union. We are an active participant in European programmes and systems such as Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus, Meteosat, and MetOp, and in upcoming ESA scientific missions such as Euclid and Solar Orbiter. Norway also engages in bilateral cooperation in space activities, including with several members of COPUOS, such as Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Furthermore, Norway is party to the Outer Space Treaty, the Registration Convention, the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention. Norway maintains a national space object registry in accordance with the obligations set out in these treaties.

Norwegian national space law dates back to 1969. Due to the rapid developments in the space sector, there are ongoing processes to evaluate the need for additional and/or revised national legislation to reflect modern realities. Active participation in COPUOS is viewed as essential to guide and inform us in these processes.

Norway's space ambitions are based on an understanding of space as a tool for promoting human development and societal needs on Earth. We also see potential for making greater use of our geographical location and existing infrastructure in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. As a maritime nation and an Arctic state, Norway has substantial experience of operating in polar areas, where the only feasible infrastructure is satellite-based. Satellites are an essential tool for communication in the shipping and offshore sectors, for navigation, and for search and rescue operations. We will continue to develop space solutions to meet important societal needs, and are constantly looking into new ways of using space-based

services. The evolution of the space sector, and in particular new opportunities relating to small satellites, will be further explored in the future.

Norway is actively promoting the use of satellite data in the UN system. In this context, we would particularly like to highlight the use of high-resolution satellite data for tropical forest monitoring. We are also conducting a project to examine how satellites can be a tool in national strategies aimed at advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Norway plans to adopt a new national space strategy in 2017, which will give us the opportunity to re-examine national priorities and set the course for the future. There is growing recognition of the critical role that space-based services play in modern society. The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the leading forum for the development of international space law and for ensuring the safe, peaceful and sustainable use of outer space. We therefore hope to play an active role and work with the rest of the international community to support the work of the committee.