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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 3–14 February 2025
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Future role and method of work of the Committee

Conference room paper on UNISPACE IV

**Submitted by Morocco and Italy and co-sponsored by Belgium,
Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, France, Latvia, Mexico,
Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, the United Arab Emirates
and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Background

1. In June 2024, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) positively received a proposal to convene a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027. COPUOS expressed its intention to further deliberate on this proposal during its intersessional period and at the 62nd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Furthermore, the General Assembly, through its resolutions [79/11](#) and [79/87](#), encouraged COPUOS to continue its consultations on this matter.

Rationale for the conference

2. It is more than a quarter of a century since the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was held in Vienna. UNISPACE III was a catalyst for the United Nations system and Member States to address gaps in global space governance and establish new mechanisms for international cooperation, capacity-building programmes, and accession to the treaties. The challenges that have emerged, for Member States necessitate a new discussion and resurgent ambition.

3. 2027 looks likely to be a pivotal year for COPUOS, as there will be alignment of deliverables on key workstreams related to the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, space debris, space resources, nuclear power sources in space, and sustainable lunar activities. 2027 will also mark the 70th session of COPUOS, 60th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, and would allow for follow-up on the

* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.418](#).



Pact for the Future, which called on COPUOS to address space traffic, space debris, and space resources. The holding of UNISPACE IV in 2027 would be timely.

Objectives of UNISPACE IV

4. The Office's Non-paper,¹ from December, proposed the following objectives, which could be considered by member States:

- Enhance space sustainability through operational mechanisms building upon the outcome of the ongoing work of the Committee and its subcommittees.
- Expand the availability of and accessibility to space solutions and capacity-building, in particular for developing countries.
- Further enhance international cooperation in space leveraging high-level engagement of all Member States of the United Nations.

Organization, venue and timing

5. Like previous UNISPACEs (most recently III in 1999, and II, in 1982), it is proposed that the participation of UNISPACE IV could be open to all Member States of the United Nations and be held in Vienna, Austria, in 2027.

6. UNISPACE IV could be a Special Session of the 70th session of COPUOS and be eight working days, which could allow for:

- (a) 2–3 days for a high-level opening plenary;
- (b) A week-long industry exhibition through which States and industry could showcase their space services, applications, and technologies for the benefit of developing countries;
- (c) Round tables, side events and workshops;
- (d) Treaty-signing events, which could see new signatories to the existing international space treaties; and
- (e) The possible adoption of a high-level political declaration that could take stock of the landmark deliverables of COPUOS, and demonstrate that COPUOS is delivering on, and will address, the pressing demands of the space sector for the decades to come.

Resourcing

7. The budget should be linked to the level of ambition of Member States but look to utilise resources already available to the session of COPUOS, as well as request additional funding, if necessary, for the organizational arrangements and deliverables of UNISPACE IV.

¹ Information circular ref.: OOSA/2024/65 – CU 2024/399/OOSA/CPLA of 18 December 2024.