

66th Session of the
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
Vienna, 31 May – 9 June 2023
Agenda Item 5 – Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
Statement of Hungary by First secretary Ms. Szilvia BALÁZS

Thank you, Mr Chair,

While fully aligning with the statement of the European Union, Hungary would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you for presiding over this session of the Committee and thank the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in its entirety for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Mr Chair,

Hungary is certainly not a newcomer to space research and space activities. With over 75 years of accumulated space heritage, we consider the space sector among the leading industrial segments. The rest of this century will primarily play out in space. Hungary therefore, confirms its commitments towards all the activities of the Committee on peaceful uses of outer space, ever so with regard to agenda item 5 on „Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes”.

Discussions on space security in New York and Geneva disarmament forums have been generally positive, contributing to advancing voluntary, non-legally binding principles and guidelines for governmental and non-governmental space activities. Hungary interprets the mandate of this Committee as including space activities conducted for peaceful uses. Progress in this Committee and other UN fora can help advance international cooperation in the responsible, peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space.

As space activities evolve, so must the norms, rules and principles that guide us. As a result, the Hungarian Space Strategy adopted on the 18th of August 2021 gives priority to:

- Harnessing the potential of space sector to stimulate innovation and sustainable growth across the national economy;
- Strengthening Hungary’s international role, broadening its relations and creating an organizational framework for coordination;
- Developing the knowledge-based social and economic conditions and the infrastructure necessary for the prosperity of space sector.

In compliance with international law, the treaties on outer space, and guiding principles developed in UN framework, we join the calling for a comprehensive approach to address the challenges, risks and threats to peaceful use of outer space.

Mr Chair,

Hungary would like to draw attention to the significance of the consensual outcome document on TCBMs reached in the second working group of the UNDC during this year's session. Hungary firmly believes that adopting these recommendations is exemplary as it is the second document adopted by the UNDC in the last 23 years, and the second one adopted under the leadership of the Eastern European Group. It was a privilege for Hungary and for me personally to serve as the chair of this working group.

In addition, it is also our view that adopting the recommendations will positively impact the work of the ongoing Space OEWG and that of the soon-to-be-established Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures to Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space (Space GGE).

In this spirit, we stand ready to participate and actively contribute to the work of the COPUOS and its Subsidiary Bodies with a cooperative approach.

Thank You, Mister Chair.