

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 4 – General Statement
Delivered by: Ambassador Troy Lulashnyk, Ambassador of Canada to Austria
Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty Sixth Session, Vienna, May 31 – June 9, 2023

**** Note this Statement switches from French to English at the bottom of Page 1****

Monsieur le Président, distingués délégués,

Je suis très heureux de me joindre à vous aujourd’hui pour cette 66^e session du Comité des utilisations pacifiques de l’espace extra-atmosphérique. Le Canada tient à exprimer sa gratitude au Bureau des affaires spatiales des Nations Unies pour avoir organisé cette rencontre. Nous tenons également à exprimer notre reconnaissance au Secrétariat, et au directeur par intérim, Monsieur Niklas Hedman, pour le leadership dont il a fait preuve pendant son mandat. Sachez que vous pouvez compter sur le plein appui de ma délégation.

Monsieur le Président,

Alors que les pays cherchent à établir une présence durable sur la Lune et au-delà, des possibilités formidables s’offriront grâce aux activités d’exploration, de science et de commerce dans l’espace. Le Canada est fier d’avoir annoncé, avec ses collègues de la NASA, que l’astronaute de l’Agence spatiale canadienne Jeremy Hansen sera le premier Canadien à aller sur la Lune dans le cadre de la mission historique Artemis II. S’appuyant sur un solide héritage d’excellence en robotique spatiale, le Canada est également heureux de contribuer à un système robotique sophistiqué, le Canadarm3, sur la station spatiale Gateway.

Les complexités de ces missions, tant naturelles que légales, prennent de l’ampleur au fur et à mesure que l’humanité s’aventure encore plus loin du point bleu pâle. Le Canada reconnaît la nécessité d’adopter des principes qui favoriseront l’utilisation pacifique de l’espace extra-atmosphérique et la coopération internationale, tout en respectant le droit international de l’espace actuel. Les principes énoncés dans les accords d’Artemis constituent une étape importante vers la réalisation de cet objectif. Le Canada tient à féliciter la République tchèque, qui est devenue le 24^e signataire des accords Artemis.

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The principles in the Accords represent a solid foundation, but not a completed structure, for further dialogue at COPUOS, including in the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities. Canada calls on members of this committee to work collaboratively to reach a consensus on the organization of the conference on space resource activities during this session so that we can advance this important initiative in a timely manner.

Mr. Chair,

Canada is pleased to be an active participant of the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and we wish to thank the Chair of the Working Group for his leadership. We encourage member states to examine the Conference Room Paper on a practical and inclusive approach to identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines.

Canada would like to reiterate its support to the extension of the agenda item and the establishment of the Expert Group on the Dark and Quiet Skies. We believe that this Expert Group will be most effective if it includes all interested nations, and balanced representation from private satellite operators, government regulators, and the scientific and academic community. All are essential to evaluate the extent of the challenges and identify means to address them. It is by considering all views that we will ensure the skies remain dark and quiet for current and future generations.

Mr. Chair,

Canada commends the practical, technical and the legal work undertaken by COPUOS. This work is the foundation for ensuring sustainable and peaceful uses outer space. In that regard, Canada welcomes Secretary General's views on the Summit of the Future and the integral role of COPUOS to address the governance of the constantly evolving nature of space activities to preserve the outer space for future generations.

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We are all here because our countries believe that stability and peace are essential. The Russian Federation has breached international peace through its unlawful use of force against the political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Without peace, the benefits all States derive from outer space activities is at risk. Even more concerning, the Russian Federation has openly threatened space objects, further endangering the peaceful uses of outer space. Canada calls upon the Russian Federation to strictly adhere to international law and cease its unlawful use of force against Ukraine. Only then, can member States of COPUOS be assured that the peaceful uses of outer space will continue to provide benefits to all States.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Canada will host, with UNOOSA, the 2023 Space4Women Expert Meeting from October 30th to November 3rd 2023, in Montreal. It will be our pleasure to welcome experts to Canada for this event. The theme of the 2023 Space4Women Expert Meeting is to build capacity to promote and advance gender equality in the space sector. We hope this event will inspire coordinated effort to advance gender mainstreaming, particularly in the space sector.

Thank you for your kind attention.