

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 13 – Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee**  
**Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency**

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

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada wishes to thank the Chair of COPUOS and the Chairs of the subcommittees for their ongoing efforts to guide the important work of this committee. Canada reiterates its support for COPUOS, its subcommittees and working groups, in which we have been participating since the inception of COPUOS. Recent years have proven challenging as we collectively navigated the transition to hybrid meetings and we welcome the return to in-person sessions. We continue to support the posting of full statements on the COPUOS website and the webcasting of the plenary sessions as strong transparency, confidence and capacity-building measures. The return to in-person sessions means that we now have twenty more hours of simultaneous translation services for this session. As a bilingual country, Canada supports member states being able to participate in any of the languages of the UN. Canada believes that the return to in-person sessions will create more opportunities for capacity-building, side meetings and informal discussions that are so valuable to advancing the work of this committee.

The experiences of the past three years represent an opportunity to reflect upon how the committee wishes to structure its work going forward. We note a number of important changes were adopted for the Scientific and Technical subcommittee and the Legal subcommittee, including limiting plenary statements to five minutes in order for all Members who wish to speak to have the opportunity to do so. As the agenda and membership of this committee has grown, this continues to be an important issue. To ensure we have sufficient time to address important emerging issues, we would like to propose amending the agenda to combine similar agenda items. This was discussed during both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee and was supported by many as a means to streamline longstanding the agenda items while providing space for new items. By combining agenda items with similar themes, we would still have sufficient time to discuss these important issues while freeing up time in the agenda to add new items as needed. Canada supports efforts to consider changes to the agenda of the committee and its subcommittees and welcomes further discussion on this matter.

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Canada would also like to raise another issue concerning the use of paper at this committee and its subcommittees. Reducing paper saves trees and conserves the energy used in converting trees into paper and in the transportation of paper products. During the pandemic, we adapted to using only electronic copies of all documents. Therefore, Canada proposes that COPUOS implements a policy whereby only procedural documents, such as reports and resolutions, are printed. All documents would remain on the session website and could be printed by request.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge COPUOS' ongoing instrumental role in developing the global governance for outer space activities. COPUOS has been successful in safeguarding the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all by adopting a consensus approach to decision-making, which has proven to be essential to advancing the work of the committee. In that regard, we believe that all decisions, short of routine administrative, should continue to be done by consensus.

Thank you for your kind attention.