

Germany; Item 13

**UNCOPUOS**  
**66<sup>th</sup> Session, Vienna, 31 May – 09 June 2023**

**Agenda Item 13: Future role and method of work of the Committee**

**Statement by Germany**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As this Committee and UNOOSA remain unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, we are pleased to be back in full physical mode and appreciate the continuation of the webcast of plenary sessions, as it responds to the growing interest in our work from both governmental and non-governmental actors around the world.

Today, we would like to reiterate four points under this agenda item:

- First, we welcome agreement on the 5 minutes limitation of statements and support the Chairs, assisted by the Secretariat, finding appropriate ways to ensure that it is respected. It has already proved its worth, as it allows COPUOS to benefit from a greater diversity of views while leaving sufficient time for substantive discussions in working groups. Our delegation will continue to present its views on selected agenda items in concise oral statements and will take advantage of the opportunity to submit its statements in writing for publication.
- Secondly, Germany is grateful for the insightful contributions made by experts, including observer organisations, to the further consideration by Member States in this Committee and its subcommittees of the latest developments in space science, technology and law, which are closely related to specific agenda items.
- Thirdly, we agree with other distinguished delegations on the need for prudent management of our agenda. We therefore welcome the discussion of proposals made at this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to streamline the agenda of the Subcommittee by combining several items, and we are open to consider these proposals. We also continue to see an urgent need for greater coordination, interaction and synergy among the subcommittees on cross-cutting issues, such as the long-

term sustainability of space activities and resources. We wish to underline our proposals to continue with reciprocal CRPs to inform the Subcommittees on cross-cutting topics. Just as the Resource WG Chairs informed the STSC, in future the LTS Chair could also report to the LSC and both WGs to COPUOS. This facilitates discussion of scientific and technical as well as legal aspects in the relevant Subcommittees. COPUOS would then be in a position to ground its final deliberations on the work and expertise of both of its subcommittees.

In the medium term, it could also be considered to address cross-cutting issues adequately by inclusion of dedicated agenda items in the agenda of both Subcommittees as well as the Main Committee.

- Finally, as expressed by several delegations across regions during the last STSC session, Germany fully supports the proposals to extend the agenda item on dark and quiet skies on the STSC agenda and to establish an expert group. We consider this issue to be of global relevance and see the need to continue the important exchanges on this issue at COPUOS level.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.