



**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA**

Statement

By the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

**The Sixty sixth session of the Committee
on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

Agenda item 13: Future role and method of work of the committee

6-17 February 2023

Vienna, Austria

“In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Delegates,

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was set up by General Assembly in 1959 to **govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development**. Since the establishment of the committee more than 64 years have passed and during the last 6 decades, COPUOS have had its valuable achievements and effects toward keeping the space, safe for peaceful purposes and made a lot of endeavors for gathering different ideas from Member States to ensure the rational benefit of all. But time passed very quickly. Many concerns regarding fast-paced developments and activities in the space environment spurred by space technologies, even were not imagined at the time of the establishment of the committee. Although the committee has tried to address matters related to its mandate, but it is needed to do more to adjust nowadays developments with the attained mandate.

Rapid progresses and novel achievements in space technologies surprise us every day; especially since the arisen of private sectors and commercial investments, plan for space market. To be able to play its valuable role and ensure its effectiveness in the new space era, COPUOS needs new approaches, tools and procedures.

For instance, regarding one of the most important topics that has recently attracted more and more attention, “Long Term Sustainability of outer space activities”; the voluntary implementation of guidelines

for many countries requires access to databases produced and updated only by some countries which have exercise national-legal limitations and restrictions to share. Furthermore, some countries may prefer not to rely on other countries' databases and catalogs. In such circumstances, COPUOS should play a key role as a facilitator to provide the required international framework which are vital for the implementation of LTS guidelines.

In this vein, some space accords including Artemis which are going forward out of COPUOS frameworks and are in contrast with the spirit of 5 UN space treaties, would result in fragmentation among Member States. It should be fully considered by COPUOS. The aforementioned accords refer to the concept of “the safety zone “which is an ambiguous concept and is a potential subject of friction in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that any rule-making activity aiming at the sustainable exploration, exploitation and utilization of space, should be conducted in the framework of COPUOS.

To conclude, to be able to universally govern the new space age, unprecedented issues that might occur at any time shall be considered in COPUOS as promptly as possible to ensure the benefits of all

Member States and prevent the divergence that might emerge among Member States.

I thank you Mr.Chairman,