



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Poland
to the United Nations Office and
the International Organizations in Vienna**

**61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
Agenda item - General Exchange of Views**

**Statement by the Head of the Delegation of Poland
Arkadiusz Michoński
Vienna, 31 January 2024**

Madame Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Polish delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for their dedicated work in preparation of 61. Session of the Subcommittee. I wish like to warmly welcome the new UNOOSA Director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini and extend our best wishes of success to her and her staff in all future endeavours. We thank amb. Juan Francisco Facetti for his able leadership of the Subcommittee last two years and wish the incoming chair Ms. Ulpia-Elana Botezatu successes in guiding us through the current session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union; we share support for recent initiatives such as addressing “Dark and Quiet Skies” within the COPUOS and dedication to implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and Long Term Sustainability Guidelines of the COPUOS.

We share the EU’s concerns about international context affecting our multilateral work. We strongly condemn violations by Russia of all the norms and principles of the international law, including the UN Charter, human rights and humanitarian obligations. Poland constantly calls for full respect of the international law and for the immediate suspension of the military operations and withdrawal of Russian occupation troops from the Ukrainian territory. We express our full support for and solidarity with Ukraine.

Madame Chair,

It is my pleasure to inform you, that the year 2023 was exceptional for the Polish space sector and our cooperation with the European Space Agency. Poland declared significant step up of its involvement in the ESA programmes. The Polish contribution has been increased for the next 3 years amounting to 360 mln EUR. As international cooperation and mutual projects initiated on the European forum are of the utmost importance for Poland, we have signed several agreements with the ESA, including inter alia on support for the Polish space sector on a trainee programme for Polish alumni and on a satellite constellation. In August, Polish government signed an agreement on a technical-science mission of a Polish astronaut to the International Space Station. The mission will allow to perform innovative research and test new technologies. The mission will also contribute to the promotion of the Polish space sector and will constitute an incentive for young professionals and students. Moreover, Poland has signed an agreement with the ESA on the Polish observation satellites constellation – thanks to which Polish entrepreneurs will develop competences in production and integration of satellite systems and Poland will gain access to high-resolution Earth observation data.

Furthermore, Poland has signed Artemis Accords to allow for an even deeper and more coordinated participation in multilateral NASA programmes. This constitutes another step towards Polish engagement in space technologies development. In order to make full use of the acquired satellite data, Poland is developing the National Satellite Information System (NSIS), which will become the basis of the monitoring system for the Polish area and will increase the use of satellite data. Poland is also investing European Union funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility in order to enhance even further the Polish space sector. Moreover, Poland is preparing for its Presidency in the European Union in the first half of 2025 and is already working on the space agenda and priorities on the EU forum. We hope our Presidency will be yet another new incentive for a deeper multilateral cooperation.

Madame Chair,

With growing involvement in the exploration of the outer space, using and promoting space technology is crucial for sustainable, social and economic development, including for developing countries. Poland appreciates all multilateral efforts towards a better and more universal use of space technologies, notably in the area of disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. We believe space is our common good and only mutual understanding and joint actions can bring successful results.

Thank you for your attention.