

 **Permanent  
Mission  
of Austria**

to the United  
Nations in Vienna

**AUSTRIA, ITEM 5**

**General Exchange of Views  
65<sup>th</sup> COPUOS (1 – 10 June 2022)  
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,  
Excellencies – Colleagues,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Austria supports the statement of the European Union. In addition, we would like to highlight the following issues on a national basis:

Let me warmly welcome you Mr. Omran Sharaf as the Chair of this Committee. We are confident that our work during this session will greatly benefit from your skills and expertise. We thank your predecessor Dr. Marius-loan Piso and his bureau for his skilful steering of work. We also welcome Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as new member states and we support the applications of Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

Let me also state at the beginning that Austria stands in full solidarity and support with Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter.

The increasing interest in the work of the Committee is underlining the relevance and importance of our deliberations.

This year again, COPUOS as the prime international forum for multilateral cooperation in the space sector is making progress on the development of international rules to govern peaceful space activities. Let me mention the following important work achieved so far:

- We welcome the consensus on the “Terms of reference, methods of work and work plan” of the **Working Group on Long-term Sustainability in Space**. The Working Group is now ready to start its work and we look forward to the substantial work and outcome both in the intersessional discussions from 15-17 November and during the upcoming STSC.
- We would like to thank the Chair and the Experts from the **Expert Group on Space Weather** for submitting their final report entitled „Draft final report of the Expert Group on Space Weather: towards improved international coordination for space weather services“. Austria supports the Report and its six high level recommendations. I would like to highlight on recommendation in particular: the strengthening of the global coordination of Space Weather activities within the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Space Environment Service (ISES) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This will enable COPUOS to advance the goal of improved global resilience against the threat of space weather, also facilitating the implementation of space weather related LTS guidelines B6 and B7.
- Light pollution is a severe problem to science and society; therefore, we welcome that **„Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society“** is included as a single item in the agenda of next year’s STSC to create more awareness on the topic and to further discuss solutions to the challenges presented.
- Austria supports the establishment of the **Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities**. We need legal certainty and predictability for all private and public actors intending to explore, exploit and utilize space resources.
- Concerning **Space for Climate Action** Austria will hold a statement under item 12 Space and Climate Change to report about our expanded cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

On this occasion, I would also like to emphasize the active contribution of the EU to COPUOS and its subcommittees, asking them to carry out their substantive workload in an efficient manner. Therefore, let me remind that the General Assembly stated in two of its resolutions

the participation of the EU not only in the COPUOS, but also in its subsidiary bodies like the working groups.

Space activities are increasing by both public and private actors. This reflects the great economic potential of space. However, the continuing growth is also a challenge for the safe and sustainable conduct of space activities.

Increased international cooperation between Member States and enhanced dialogue with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as with industry and private sector entities, remain important.

This applies in particular to new topics for which there is not yet a working group or plan for further action, such as Space Traffic Coordination and Management.

In September 2021, the UN Secretary-General published his **report "Our Common Agenda"**. In his report, the Secretary General proposes a high-level **"Summit of the Future"** in September 2023. The Summit is to advance ideas for governance arrangements in areas of international concern that are mentioned in this report.

**Peaceful, safe and sustainable use of outer space** features prominently in that document.

Austria supports such a holistic, intergovernmental process for an innovative global governance. This process should bring together diverse national interests and values and generate results according to the broad agenda. New institutional and legal arrangements are necessary to provide enhanced global public goods.

Austria intends to contribute actively to this Member States driven process.

Together with UNOOSA, Austria will organise this **year's "World Space Forum"** in Vienna from **12-15 December 2022**, it will be a hybrid event. We want to discuss how space technologies can support the implementation of "Our Common Agenda" and what solutions or actions are necessary to strengthen the peaceful, safe and sustainable use of space for the benefit of all.

In our view, it is of particular importance to address present and future challenges to the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities as well as potential legal and institutional initiatives based on existing international space law.

In this regard, Austria would like to thank the chair of the STSC, Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, the former chair of COPUOS and all Member States that supported Austria's proposal to find consensus on a reference to the Space2030 Agenda and to forward it to NY for inclusion into the ministerial declaration of the High Level Political Forum of the ECOSOC this summer.

I would like to raise one more important topic and that is young people and getting them excited about space technologies and giving them a direct voice in our processes. Their views and talents are necessary to find solutions to the challenges ahead. With this in mind, we look forward to the technical presentation of a university team of young architects reporting about their projects concerning "Lunar Oasis – Architectural Visions for an Integrated Habitat" which will take place on 8 June 2022 in the afternoon under item 15 Space exploration and innovation. Another Austrian technical presentation about Micro-Space Debris Detection with the satellite ADLER-1 by the Austrian Space Forum will take place this afternoon under item 6, Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. I invite all of you to participate in these events.

I would also like to invite you all to an online event on 2 June 2022 at 5:15pm titled "Ensuring the Sustainability of Outer Space – The Role of Space Law and Policy". The event will inform about current developments and contributions of space law and policy to sustainability. Please find more information on our website [www.austria-in-space.at](http://www.austria-in-space.at).

In concluding, allow me to underline that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support to the work of this Committee and its subcommittees. In this spirit, we are convinced that our 65th session of the Committee will be successful.

Thank you!