

## Norway – Item 5

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### **Statement by Norway to the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under Agenda Item 5: “General Exchange of Views”**

Delivered by Ambassador Kjersti E. Andersen, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, Vienna, 1 June 2021.

Thank you Chair,

Let me first congratulate you on being elected Chair for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2022 – 2023. You may rest assured of Norway’s support.

I would also like to thank the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs for excellent preparations for this meeting.

My delegation is also pleased to welcome the new members to the committee: Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia.

Unfortunately, our session takes place against the backdrop of Russia’s illegal and unprovoked attack on Ukraine – assisted by Belarus. The attack remains a flagrant breach of the most fundamental rules of international relations. We repeat our call on the Russian federation to withdraw its troops and stop its aggression against Ukraine. Norway also supports the call of several Member States not to move forward with the establishment of a new UN affiliated regional centre for space science and technology education hosted in Russia.

Chair,

Developments and activities in the space domain are growing at an immense rate. The pace of these developments underlines the importance of the multilateral efforts of COPUOS to develop norms and guidelines for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We must strive for our activities in outer space to be for the common good and the benefit of all mankind.

Countering the effects of climate change and promoting the sustainability of outer space activities are among Norway’s priorities. Satellites play a crucial role by providing data that can be used to measure the effects of climate change over time.

Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative continues to provide universal access to imagery of all tropically forested landmass between 30 degrees North and 30 degrees South. The project has been extended until August 2023, with an option for further extension. The main goal of the initiative is to contribute to reducing and reversing the depletion of tropical rainforests.

I am also pleased to announce that Norway has now signed the Declaration of Interest for a Space Climate Observatory.

Chair,

It is in the interest of the entire global community to preserve and protect the space environment for future generations. Norway welcomes three positive and progressive developments that have recently taken place in COPUOS:

Firstly, the agreement on the Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation Plan. The Space2030 Agenda is a high priority for Norway. We are presently considering how to constructively contribute to the agenda and will report to the Committee accordingly.

Secondly, the adoption of the 21 Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space. We are looking into how to best implement the guidelines on a national level. Related to this, we commend the establishment of the new working group on Long Term Sustainability, and look forward to participating in it.

Thirdly, the establishment of a Working Group on Space Resources and reaching agreement on its work plan at this year's Legal Subcommittee. The Working Group can finally commence its work. We are looking forward to contributing actively.

We are also pleased that the General Assembly's open ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour is progressing in a way that complements the work of COPUOS.

Chair,

Allow me also to present an update on some of the latest developments in our space activities.

We continue our work on developing a new space law to replace the current one from 1969. We are also working on specific regulations under the law, a supervisory system for space activities, as well as a notification system for launches.

In April last year, a new satellite for maritime surveillance, NorSat-3 was launched. This brings Norway's maritime surveillance constellation to four satellites.

The Norwegian company "Andøya Space" has been granted funding from the government to establish a space port for launching small satellites into polar orbits. With the establishment of this launch site, Norway looks forward to taking one more step ahead as a space faring nation.

In concluding, permit me to reiterate Norway's steadfast support of the vital work taking place in this committee and for you Chair, in your mission.

Thank you Chair