

**Presentation of the Conference Room Paper at the sixtieth session of the  
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Vienna, May – June 2023**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Representatives,

1. Portugal is glad to present the Conference Room Paper number 21 on the United Nations/Portugal Conference on **Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities**.
2. Since the dawn of space activities, the United Nations General Assembly established this Committee in 1958 as a permanent body to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security, and development. Initially with 24 Member States, today we are 102 Member States reflecting the importance of this Committee and the relevance of space activities worldwide.
3. The Committee with its mandate and position at the centre of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law, played a key role in the organization of the first three United Nations conferences on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999.
4. Through the work of this Committee, Member States during challenging times were able to come together and agree in common treaties such as the **Outer Space Treaty**, the **Rescue Agreement**, the **Liability Convention**, the **Registration Convention**, and the **Moon Agreement**. This proves that even in challenging times Member States in this Committee can come together for the benefit of all humankind.
5. Within the UNISPACE+50 process, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution 73/6 “Space2030” agenda, and recognized space as a major driver and contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all. Within this resolution, space technology is identified as a fundamental tool to support the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, requiring a stronger coordination and support at all international levels, including through improved access to space-based data, applications and space infrastructure.

6. At the time of its 75th anniversary, the United Nations Member States requested the United Nations Secretary-General to report with recommendations to respond to current and future challenges. Governments called for a renewed multilateralism, one that strengthened global governance for the common future of present and coming generations.
7. In response to the UN75 call, the Secretary-General devoted a significant section of his Our Common Agenda report to **Outer Space Governance**. In this report, the importance of the space sector is well reflected in the third proposed commitment “Promote peace and prevent conflicts”, under the goal to Deliver Global Public Goods and Address Major Risks
8. The **Our Common Agenda** report recommends the organization of a high-level multi-stakeholder “**Summit of the Future**” to advance ideas for governance arrangements that should be preceded by preparatory events and consultations.
9. The Member States should take advantage of the fact that Space is part of broader UN goals and contribute to the deliberations of the **Summit of the Future**.
10. To support those the deliberations, Portugal will actively contribute to the outer space dialogue and host an international conference on the topic of **Management & Sustainability of Outer Space Activities**, in May 2024. This conference, to be organised together with UNOOSA, will be an important moment for all UN Member States to actively contribute in an open forum to the discussions on the topics to be addressed in the Summit of the Future.
11. To achieve this goal **two preparatory virtual symposiums** will be convened, one more centred in technical issues in October 2023, other more focused on policy in March 2024, to consult international experts from industry, academia, and member States. The Portuguese delegation will present regular status presentation to COPUOS and its subcommittees on the developments of the conference.

12. The conference should address the need for the international community to come together and discuss ways to reinforce space governance and further strengthen the sustainability of human space activities in which the Secretary-General Policy Brief on **Outer Space** could provide a guideline for discussion.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Maybe there is not enough time to deeply discuss the topics of the **Outer Space Policy Brief** from now until the **Summit of the Future**. But it would be reckless or unwise, not to take this opportunity to discuss in an open and freely way those important issues.
14. As USG Ryder noted in his address to the COPUOS Members earlier in May, the Policy Brief does not prescribe the way forward for an Outer Space Dialogue or make specific recommendations regarding the Summit of the Future in 2024. These matters are first and foremost the prerogative of Member States and what the Our Common Agenda process and Summit of the Future offer is a platform for engagement on these vital issues.
15. As mentioned before, even in challenging times Member States can come together for the benefit of all humankind. The conference on **Management & Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** will be a great opportunity where we can all discuss in an open and freely way those important issues. This will not take over the role of this Committee neither be a parallel track. It will be a valuable opportunity to contribute to the Summer of the Future in a meaningful way.
16. We trust on your support, and we invite you all to be an active player at the conference on **Management & Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** having always in mind that we will be working together for the benefit of all humankind.

Please feel free to reach out for more information.

Thank you for your kind attention.