



Permanent Mission of Italy  
International Organisations - Vienna

**65<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF OUTER SPACE**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese**

Item 4: general exchange of views

**Vienna, 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2023**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

While fully aligning myself with the statement of the European Union, including the strongest possible condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, let me add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Let me first congratulate you, Mister Chair, for presiding over this session of the Committee and thank all the staff of UNOOSA and its acting Director Nicklas Hedman for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Mr. Chair,

Italy firmly believes in the key role of COPUOS, as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. **We are fully commitment towards all the activities of the Committee** and with the support of national experts, we look forward to contribute to the current session, to the working groups of its subcommittees as well as the informal groups meeting at the margin of this session, including the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

Mr. Chair,

Italy attaches great importance to the **implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda**, which was negotiated in a COPUOS Working Group that I had the honour to co-chair. We hope that the principles agreed in this strategic document, will feature prominently at the upcoming SDG Summit and at the Summit for the Future next year, acknowledging the key contribution of space technologies to socio-economic development and the Sustainable development goals.

Raising awareness on the often-underestimated contribution of space technology is also one of the goals of the **Italian National Space Day** that, recently established in 2021, we celebrate on December 16, the anniversary of the launch of the first Italian satellite back in 1964.

Mr. Chair,

Before recalling the most recent achievement of the Italian space sector, I wish to announce that Italy has committed not to conduct **destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile** tests following the adoption in New York in December 2022 of UN General Assembly Resolution 77/41. This decision is part of Italy’s strong commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space. Italy will continue to work actively and constructively to increase the safety and sustainability of outer space, a common good that is very important for the vital interests of all nations.

Mr. Chair,

**As a “pioneer Nation” in space**, Italy has developed a significant expertise in all fields of space technologies. Let me now briefly highlight some of the **most significant space activities carried out since the last session of COPUOS**:

- After the successful participation in the DART mission, the first Planetary Defense test ever conducted, the Italian Space Agency is proud to continue its collaboration with NASA in the framework of the Artemis program. With its cubesat “ArgoMoon”, Italy took part to the US mission that sent in orbit the first Orion capsule for the human exploration of the Moon. Artemis 1 mission represents the official beginning of the Artemis program for lunar exploration and Italy is deeply involved in its development. Further to that, Italy is working on the so called “Lunar GNSS Receiver Experiment”. An experiment of key importance for future space missions that, for the first time, will test the positioning technology of the GPS and Galileo satellite navigation systems beyond 200.000 km from Earth.

- Italy is also proud to be one of the major contributors to the European Space Agency's mission JUICE that will explore Jupiter's icy moons; to continue its cooperation with the China National Space Administration within the CSES mission (China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite); and to continue working in testing new type of space detectors;

- Regarding the new ALCOR program, which we announced at the latest Scientific and technical subcommittee, 20 projects are currently ongoing with the ambition to develop high-complex nanosatellites to test prototypes for innovative services.

Mister Chair,

During this session, the Italian Space Agency will also present its current activities on **climate change** and will organise a **technical presentation**, on the “**Broglia Space Center**” in Malindi. Built in the 1960s, the Centre is run together with Kenya, with whom we have a long-standing and fruitful cooperation. Not only we believe that this represents an excellent example of collaboration but the Center is currently one of the few equatorial bases that allows monitoring the first steps of many space missions. The presentation is taking place on June 6 in the morning and you are all warmly invited.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to recall that Rome is candidate to host **EXPO 2030**, with aerospace development featuring among the strengths of the candidature. Rome and its province host important institutions operating in aerospace and important production chains in the sector. In our view Rome 2030 Expo can be a great opportunity for institutions, research centres and academia to develop new joint project and partnerships in this sector.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.