

Germany, Item 5

UNCOPUOS
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Item 5: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

as outer space has become more congested and contested, Germany together with its partners and the EU continue to play a leading role in preserving outer space as secure, safe and sustainable domain in the common interest of all humankind. In this context, the new EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence significantly contributes to increasing and strengthening transparency, predictability and trust among space-faring and not-yet-spacefaring countries. The open-ended working group, OEWG, on reducing space risks and threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours is in our view another important fora for inclusively discussing existing security threats in space and approaches for mitigating such risks through responsible state behaviours.

We have long held the position that this Committee has a mandate to deal with the peaceful uses of outer space, including space safety and sustainability, and that other bodies, such as the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, are tasked with addressing space security, and we continue to hold that position. But we also see that these issues are becoming increasingly inter-linked. More efforts need to be done for exchanging information and improving co-operation between relevant UN bodies addressing outer space affairs, including COPUOS. Significant overlaps exist sometimes between working strands dealt with at different bodies in different places by different people. We see a clear need to ensure better interaction, increased coherence and practical complementarity between the ongoing processes, while maintaining their respective mandates. This is all the more important given the fact the outer space might be a one of the policy areas addressed by the Summit of the Future in 2024, which is an UN-wide undertaking and covers many aspects of this topic. One positive example for increased exchange between these working strands has been the joint meetings of the First and Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on possible

challenges to space security and sustainability. We welcome further meetings of this kind.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.