

**Statement Netherlands regarding agenda item 13 (Future Role of the Committee)** *Delivered by: Mr. J.G. Kroon, Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure, The Netherlands.*

Distinguished delegates,

The last years various delegations, among them also the Netherlands, expressed views regarding possible adjustments to the methods and work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees, including its agendas. In 2021 the Netherlands submitted a non-paper on this issue, emphasizing its significance for all Member States.

The number of member states and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has grown enormously the last ten years. Also, the number of space-active countries and space objects has been increasing significantly the last years. In line with these developments, the number of items on the agenda of the Committee and its Subcommittees has grown too. The Netherlands firmly believes that, in order to safeguard the effectiveness of the committee meetings, a more balanced agenda approach should be adopted. For example, in situations where new items are added to the agenda, consideration should be given, that only a new item can be added to the agenda if another item has been removed or existing items will be merged to reduce the total number of agenda items. This approach will ensure the balance between the length of the agenda on the one hand and the time available for productive discussion during our meetings on the other hand.

In general, the Netherlands is in favor of increasing the efficiency of the committee's working method and encourages proposals for new methods of work which will stimulate interaction between delegates. We believe that this can be achieved by only adding new items on the agenda if another agenda item will be removed or if existing agenda items will be merged in order to reduce to total number of agenda items. We believe that only in this way we will achieve a more balanced agenda and stimulated substantive discussions between member states in the Committees.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.