

Statement of Poland

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the entire delegation of Poland, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election as the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and wish you all success in the management of this session in the demanding circumstances of hybrid setting. We are convinced that your diplomatic skills and knowledge will help the Subcommittee achieve its goals and deal effectively with its agenda, and we stand ready to support you.

Let me also express our appreciation for the work of the Chair of the past sessions - Madam Natalia Archinard, whose commitment and personal engagement are cherished by us.

Our gratitude goes Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Madam Simonetta di Pippo, and her staff headed by our colleague, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for their excellent intersessional preparatory work. We thank you for your support truly reflecting your dedication to the COPUOS system and matters that we examine.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union; we especially share the EU's concerns and goals like preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment, establishing the principles of responsible behavior and the growing problem of space debris.

At the same time we would like to share with member states some information and views in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland has recently joined the group of signatories of the Artemis Accords. We believe this creates opportunities to participate actively in the programs of space exploration.

We believe the Artemis Accords, with its philosophy and specific focus, can contribute to the development of opinion on the existing norms of international space law and will contribute to the discussion on the issues to be solved currently

and emerging items that were never part of the discussion in the COPUOS or elsewhere.

We believe that the experience of signatories to the Artemis Accords and subsequent application of these will contribute to the achievement of common understanding on many issues and will assist in the search for consensus, in line with the spirit of cooperation always prevailing in this setting.

Poland has also taken steps to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Hungary on cooperation in space research and space activities. We aim at expanding our bilateral cooperation in such fields as exchange of satellite data for the purpose of Earth science; observations, monitoring the evolution of the climate and the environment, which are essential for human health and wellbeing. We also see great potential for cooperation in the field of space exploration and robotic technologies. We hope that its signature will take place soon.

Like in previous years we are open to expand our basis for cooperation with partners and will be keen to discuss the possibility of signing documents facilitating such cooperation.

We plan to continue with our launching activities, and to develop and strengthen our space sector, considering our involvement in the international cooperation with partners on the basis of political documents, MoU's, and membership in the European Space Agency, as this year marks the tenth anniversary of our accession to the ESA!

The launching capabilities of Poland are constantly growing. To date, Poland is internationally associated with the launch into orbit of six satellites, mostly coordinated by national research centers and this was done in carrying out scientific missions. During the past two years one of the most successful Polish companies launched seven nanosatellites, which will become part of commercial Earth observation satellites' constellation in the following years.

Moreover, Poland continues to develop the ability to launch objects into space with space rockets. The construction of domestic capabilities accelerates, in particular, in the area of sub-orbital rockets and innovative rocket engines.

Mr. Chairman,

With growing involvement in the exploration of outer space, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is crucial to avoid harm to the Earth's orbital space environment and to guarantee the safety of space operations; a conviction shared by the whole membership of the COPUOS.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, the 21 Guidelines adopted by the COPUOS in 2019 are a cornerstone in the development of principles that are to strengthen the international governance of space activities. My delegation expresses our full support to the work of the new LTS Working Group and we hope that soon it will be able to adopt all necessary elements to continue with its important tasks.

We fully support the implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines in the process of undertaking the outer space activities. In this regard, we are pleased to announce that Poland has recently taken part in the Phase 2 of the Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the LTS Guidelines Project, carried out by UNOOSA. We were given the opportunity to briefly present our country's main activities and objectives in terms of exploration and peaceful use of outer space, as well as to share the challenges that Polish space sector has experienced and is still facing through implementation practices.

One of the crucial elements to ensure the implementation of the LTS Guidelines is the adoption of appropriate legislation. We continue to work on the Act regulating space activities. My delegation mentioned these efforts on several occasions within the COPUOS.

When finalized, the Act will, inter alia, facilitate the use of satellite data by public administration, promotion the use of satellite data by private companies, including by organizing training courses for all interested entities.

Mr. Chairman,

This session marks the beginning of another annual cycle of the COPUOS.

Let me offer some remarks on the issue, which will focus our attention throughout this year, namely space resources. With the adoption of the decision to establish the Working Group on this agenda item of the LSC last year, we made an important step towards the area that requires from us special vision and expertise.

The five-year workplan to be discussed by the Working Group, when adopted, has to be filled with concrete elements, leading to the examination of best possible scenarios and frameworks.

We believe that some interesting elements are already on the table. An open and friendly approach, helping international community deal with the future, imminent challenges, will allow the Group to cope with its mandate.

The bureau of the Working Group greatly and constantly appreciates support and contributions from the member states.

We believe, and that is why we include this topic to our statement here, that the issue of space resources needs involvement and contribution from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and in general – experts. The role of this Subcommittee would respond to the needs for strengthened coordination in the governance of space activities, with the COPUOS and its subcommittees playing crucial roles as assigned to them by the United Nations General Assembly.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.