



European Union

Statement by the European Commission

**United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
61st Session of the Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee (STSC)**

Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024

Item 8 – Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems

Chair,

It is my pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the Chair of the 17th Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), which was held in Madrid, from 16 to 20 October 2023.

The 28th meeting of the Providers' Forum was held in conjunction with the 17th meeting of the ICG. The Providers' Forum continued to provide an effective multilateral mechanism for cooperation on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS).

The European Commission organised and hosted the meeting in collaboration with the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. There were over 300 attendees from 14 Member States of the United Nations and the European Union, and 22 member organisations. Algeria and Türkiye were recognized as new members of the ICG. The representatives of Pakistan attended the meeting as invited observer.

The ICG meeting consisted of three plenary sessions and four working group meetings focused on systems, signals and services; enhancement of GNSS performance, new services and capabilities; information dissemination and capacity-building; and reference frames, timing and applications. The working groups made substantive progress in furthering the ICG workplan.

The ICG discussed the recommendations of the working groups with regard to the implementation of the actions set forth in their workplans. The following six recommendations were endorsed:

- (a) the conduct of a survey into GNSS time offsets for receiver manufacturers;
- (b) the approval of the revised terms of reference for the joint international GNSS monitoring and assessment trial project;

(c) the further inclusion of emerging low Earth orbit positioning, navigation and timing providers in ICG discussions;

(d) the joint organization by ICG and the Interagency Operations Advisory Group of a multilateral workshop on cis-lunar positioning, navigation and timing;

(e) the use of the broadcast predictions of Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) to determine the offsets between GNSS times for non-space-based users; and

(f) the development of GNSS-based techniques for applications related to disaster risk reduction and the monitoring of natural hazards.

The ICG accepted the invitation extended by New Zealand to host the 18th meeting of the ICG, in October 2024 in Wellington, and noted the offer made by the Republic of Korea in hosting the 19th meeting of the ICG in 2025.

The results of the 17th meeting of the ICG and the 28th meeting of the Providers' Forum can be found in document A/AC.105/1304. All documents from the meetings and presentations can be accessed through the ICG information portal on the website of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org).

To close, allow me to express, on behalf of the ICG, our appreciation for the outstanding work undertaken by UNOOSA as the Executive Secretariat of the ICG and its Providers' Forum.

Thank you, Chair.