



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024, Agenda Item 5 – General Exchange of Views**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon.

I would like to begin by congratulating you for your election as the Chair of this Committee and express our delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this session. We would also like to thank director Aarti Holla-Maini and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (*UNOOSA*) for the excellent organisation of this meeting.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and distinguished Delegates,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union (*EU*).

International cooperation is central to the work of this Committee. Regrettably the conditions for it continue to greatly suffer due to Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which Finland has condemned since the beginning in the strongest terms. We reiterate our full solidarity with Ukraine and our firm support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr Chair,

Finland reiterates the importance of space capabilities for different sectors and functions of society and for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, it is even more so critical to assure the safety and sustainability of space activities and of space environment. This is a global issue, and thus, calls for global governance.

Finland believes that the primary method for developing space governance should be solution-oriented dialogue at multilateral forum such as this Committee. We recognize the importance of COPUOS as an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on the scientific and technical, as well as policy and legal aspects on the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chair,

The benefits of space to different sectors of society have also been a driving force in the process of updating Finland's national space strategy, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The growth of our space sector has been remarkable during the now-ongoing strategy period 2018–2025, and we are looking forward to introduce the new strategy and goals for 2030.

There are currently 28 satellites registered in our national registry of space objects. All of them have been launched since 2017 when Finland became a space-faring nation. These satellites include both scientific and commercial missions by Finnish companies and a university. In addition to these entities that are carrying out activities in outer space, a number of other Finnish companies and institutions are producing space-based services that are beneficial for different sectors of society.

The underlying values behind the work for our national space strategy are sustainable use of outer space, rules-based international order and cooperation as well as the right of everyone to utilize outer space in accordance with international treaties. We have strived to be and aim to continue of being an attractive operating environment as well as a responsible and reliable international partner in the space sector. With the new strategy our aim is also to promote more efficient utilization of space solutions in different sectors.

Mr. Chair,

As we underline the importance of space activities and space-based services, we also wish to specifically point out the role of space solutions in combatting climate change. As an Arctic country and one of the Member States in the Arctic Council, Finland considers that sustainable growth of the Arctic area can be ensured through active development and use of space infrastructure that can serve the specific needs of the area, taking into consideration the effects of climate change that are pronounced in the Arctic.

We wish to actively engage with all delegations in assuring that space solutions keep helping us tackle such global challenges and that the potential of space is availed in a sustainable manner.

Thank you Mr. Chair.