



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
25 June - 2 July 2025
delivered by H.E. Valerie Wanjiku RUGENE,
Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank Dr. Sherif Sedky of Egypt for a successful chairmanship of the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and congratulate you, Prof. Rafiq Akram of Morocco, on your election as the Chair of the 68th Session. I also congratulate your new Bureau, which also includes other members of the Group, Mr. Juan Francisco Facetti Fernandez of Paraguay, First Vice-Chair and Ms. Hesa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain, Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. You can count on the Group for its full cooperation and support to you, Chair, and all members of the Bureau as we consider issues of utmost relevance, especially for developing countries, at this important session of the Committee.

2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session. The Group reiterates its support to the Office and its activities taking into account the needs of developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

3. Considering the time constraints, the G-77 and China wishes to make the following remarks which should be considered applicable to all agenda items and working groups:

- a. The Group reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those in the Outer Space Treaty and as outlined in RES. GA.1962 (XVIII) and RES. GA.1884 (XVIII). The Group is of the view that all outer space activities including mega-constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the international law, including the UN Charter.
- b. The Group underscores the imperative of fully implementing the *Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the interest of all States taking into account the needs of developing countries* (UNGA A/RES/51/122). In this regard, it is crucial that developing countries are not

left behind or unfairly disadvantaged by exploration, exploitation and peaceful uses of outer space. Consequently, space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries, including transfer of technology on favorable terms and capacity-building.

4. The Group welcomes the ongoing consultations on the proposal to hold the United Nations Conference on Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space (**UNISPACE IV**) in 2027 and underscores that **UNISPACE IV** must be action-oriented and an opportunity to consolidate the interests of developing countries to ensure that the use and exploration of outer space is carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all countries, regardless of their degree of scientific and economic development and in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty and applicable international law.

5. The Group noted with appreciation the continued work of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultations (ATLAC) [conducted by the Co-Chairs, Mr. Hasan Abbas of Pakistan and Ms. Ulpia Elena Botezatu of Romania]. The Group looks forward to endorse ATLAC's multi-year work plan and initial list of potential priority topics, including consolidating support to developing countries, by the Committee during this Session.

6. The Group urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and related actions contrary to international law and the UN Charter, mindful that they hamper or impede access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries.

7. The Group joins other calls to further support UNOOSA amid the current financial constraints. The Group stresses that the current situation should not impact the principle of equitable geographical representation in the Secretariat. The Group requests that UNOOSA continue, as per its mandate, to promote the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, advance international cooperation, and strengthen the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications.

8. Finally, the Group looks forward to the adoption of a consensus report of this session that avoids matters exceeding the mandate of COPUOS.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5: WAYS AND MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

1. The Group wants to underscore its firm conviction that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law.

2. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the only UN forum to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. Accordingly, the Group believes that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States and that ensures the space development and activities of developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group welcomes the new applications to join the membership of the Committee. The steady growth of COPUOS in recent years is a clear sign of the international recognition of the unique role of COPUOS as the UN forum dedicated to discussing and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. It is important that more Member States of the United Nations be welcomed as this contributes to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.

4. In this regard, the Group both welcomes and encourages the participation of observers in the Committee and its Subcommittees as this contributes to greater engagement with the activities of COPUOS.

5. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the peaceful use of outer space to prevent an arms race there and to refrain from placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and any other actions contrary to that objective.

6. In this regard, the Group notes that transparency and confidence building measures could play a useful role. The Group believes that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities requires the commitment of all Member States to use outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.