



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

by

Delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran

before

The sixty forth session of the COPUOS

on

**Item 5: ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful
purposes**

25 August-3 September 2021

Vienna, Austria

“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

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One of the main tasks of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) is to examine ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, so, any attempt to distinguish weaponization from peaceful use of space is a fundamental deviation. Considering the fact that the exploration and exploitation of space is in the common interests of all humanity, any issue which is directly related to five principal space treaties, including the OST 1967, must be raised in COPUOS sessions.

The weaponization of space can violate the preamble, articles one, two, four and, six of the outer space treaty, so we strongly believe that COPUOS is a competent body to investigate any issue that violates the peaceful use of outer space.

By establishing a space force and striving for military supremacy in space, some countries have increased the likelihood of threats from space, on space and in space. Unfortunately, those countries continue to expand their abilities in the field of weaponization of space by casting doubt on COPUOS competence and by abusing deficiencies of the existing space law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon all member States of COPUOS to take a sensible approach and to prevent the weaponization of space through cooperation and collective measures. The lack of a serious will to counter the weaponization of space, violates the peaceful and non-discriminatory use of space, and will lead to an arms race in space. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm view that in order to preserve the space for peaceful purpose, COPUOS must prevent the weaponization of space by establishing an appropriate mechanism for full cooperation of leading countries along with developing countries and by ensuring free and sustainable access of all countries to outer space, to pave the ground for increasing trust and ultimately creating a collective security.