

**Statement by the United States of America**  
**UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**64th Session**

**Agenda Item 13: Future role of the Committee**

September 2, 2021

Mister Chair,

As the only standing body of the United Nations concerned exclusively with the peaceful uses of outer space, this Committee has spent the past six decades working tirelessly to foster international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and ever-expanding use of outer space to benefit all of humanity.

The work of the Committee and its two subcommittees is more important than ever, as evidenced by the ambitious Space2030 Agenda, the on-going work to implement the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and the potential establishment of a working group focused on space resource utilization. Each of these efforts provides an opportunity for further discussion on the implementation of the principles established by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which is the appropriate focus of this body.

As my delegation has noted before at this session, the United States reaffirms its belief that the principles contained in the Outer Space Treaty, as well as our other applicable international obligations, guide the full range of governmental and private sector space activities. These include space debris mitigation, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and space resource utilization - all important areas of international cooperation where this Committee has primary responsibility within the UN system.

With specific regard to space exploration and use beyond Earth's orbit, we look forward to further discussion with the Committee on the Artemis Accords as a framework to guide the cooperative future exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond - in a safe, sustainable, responsible, and transparent manner.

Mister Chair,

Issues associated with either the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space or the use of outer space for national security-related space activities are more appropriately discussed in fora whose mandates focus on those issues, such as the Conference of Disarmament, the UN Disarmament Commission, and the General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security.

My delegation remains firmly convinced that the *Future role of the Committee* continues to rest upon the principle of consensus and the associated "Vienna Spirit" that allows this body to remain focused on maximizing the benefits of space exploration and use for all of humanity.

Thank you, Mister Chair