



*Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

*Check against delivery*

*Statement by PORTUGAL  
Delivered by Mr Jorge Aranda,  
Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations*

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**Joint Session of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Committees**  
*27 October 2022*

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Further to the statement delivered earlier by the United Kingdom, which we fully support, we would like to convey the following message.

We would like to start by commending you for convening this joint session, as outer space requires a comprehensive and cross-cutting approach, being a global common whose security and sustainability we need to uphold with a view to achieving fundamental objectives of the United Nations, such as international peace and sustainable development for all nations. For this and many other reasons, it is important to have an open dialogue among all nations in all UN relevant fora to ensure a sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

With that in mind, and notwithstanding the discussion on international binding instruments, we favor the development of norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior in outer space. We therefore welcome initiatives from Member States to refrain from performing destructive missile anti-satellite tests, which affect the space ecosystem, created for the benefit of people, in a way that may destroy this new way of living in our own planet and the future of the next generations.



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We believe it is paramount to continue the discussions, in a complementary way, within COPUOS and its Subcommittees, as well as in the Disarmament Commission and the Open-Ended Working Group, to guarantee a safe and sustainable outer space.

Portugal welcomes the workplan and methods of work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, as it is keen on maintaining the good pace on this topic in strong cooperation with all delegations.

Portugal also welcomes the establishment of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as Portugal is actively committed to the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. We have done an internal assessment of the 2019 LTS Guidelines implementation and the results were very satisfactory.

Sustainable Development Goals are pursued as a comprehensive part of the Portuguese Space Agency's activities and policy. This is reflected in several initiatives, including in one of the Agency's flagship projects: the AI Moonshot Challenge, launched at the Websummit under the motto "A Sustainable Space for a Sustainable Earth", with proposals focused on the promotion of sustainable Oceans and in a sustainable management of terrestrial and space resources, using artificial intelligence.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

During the next decade we will see massive transformation of the space sector with new public and private actors, new international collaborations, and new ways of facing space exploration, for which we need to be prepared and plan ahead. Portugal is already home to companies that are providing data, on-ground sensors and services to monitor space debris and that will soon be able to provide collision avoidance capabilities to satellite operators. This is why we would like to commend



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you for inviting stakeholders to participate in this joint session, as we all benefit from the inputs of academia, private sector and civil society.

Portugal strongly supports “Our Common Agenda” proposed by the UN Secretary-General and, in particular, “a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations”, that also encompasses a “multi-stakeholder dialogues on outer space” for a peaceful, secure, and sustainable use of outer space. Portugal will continue to actively contribute to the outer space dialogue by promoting an international conference on management and sustainability of space activities. This conference will be hosted by Portugal in the first half of 2024, on the road to the Summit of the Future, later that year.

We look forward to further international cooperation in this domain.

Thank you.