



**63rd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

2-13 February 2026

Statement by Australia

**Agenda item 4: General exchange of views and introduction of reports
submitted on national activities**

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

On behalf of my delegation, I extend a warm welcome to Mr Pakorn Apaphant of Thailand as Chair of the Subcommittee for 2026. You have Australia's full support.

I extend Australia's sincere thanks to the outgoing Chair, Ms Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania, for her able leadership of the Subcommittee over the past two years.

Australia also commends the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for their continued support of the Subcommittee.

We welcome Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Honduras, Maldives, Malta and Zimbabwe as new members of the Committee.

Commitment to international law

Chair,

Australia supports this Subcommittee to discuss and develop rules and norms that seek to support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

Australia's enduring commitment to and respect for international law compels us to again condemn Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine.

International contributions and national developments in 2025

Chair,

Australia reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all, including the importance of international cooperation in this endeavour.

The Australian Government also supports the continued growth of the Australian space sector as an enabler of its commitment to build a Future Made in Australia. In support of these efforts, the Australian Space Agency (the Agency) is working to enhance national and international partnerships, focusing on capacity building, research and the development of emerging technologies.

In this regard, the Agency is pleased to have become an Associate Member of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC). The Agency is engaging with Australia's research community to understand how our capabilities in sensing, re-entry analysis, spacecraft protection and debris

mitigation—together with our vast view of the Southern sky—can contribute to international efforts in these areas.

Australia continues to be an active participant in international space weather activities, and is pleased that important work on space weather will continue under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization.

Australia is also honoured assume the role of Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) in 2026. CEOS is the primary forum for international coordination of space-based Earth observations, and we look forward to hosting the 40th CEOS Plenary in Hobart, Tasmania, later this year.

The 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), held in Sydney, Australia, from 29 September to 3 October 2025, showcased Australia's space sector to the world. Importantly, it provided a unique opportunity to further our collective understanding of space, and serve as a platform to exchange knowledge, present research, and form collaborations that will shape the future of space exploration and innovation.

Australia was pleased to co-host the Artemis Accords Principals' Meeting for 2025 with the United Arab Emirates and the United States in the margins of the 76th IAC. Australia is committed to advancing implementation of the Artemis Accords.

Australian operators have also undertaken several activities over the past twelve months, demonstrating the continued development of Australia's space sector.

This included the first ever commercial return of a space object to a commercial spaceport anywhere in the world, and the first orbital launch attempt of a launch vehicle designed and manufactured in Australia.

The Agency provided regulatory oversight of these activities. Australia is continuing to consider opportunities to develop its domestic regulatory framework for civil space activities, including in supporting implementation of our international obligations.

Closing

Chair,

Australia notes with concern the negative and ongoing impact of the liquidity crisis on the operating budget and activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In this regard, Australia appreciates efforts by Member States and the Secretariat to find ways to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees.

Australia remains committed to working collaboratively with Member States and Permanent Observers to address emerging challenges and consider opportunities in the exploration and use of outer space. We look forward to constructive discussions over the course of this session. Thank you.