



69th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

10 June – 18 June 2026

Statement by Australia

Agenda Item: 5 – General exchange of views

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

Australia warmly welcomes you, Mr Teodoro Valente of Italy, as Chair of the Committee for 2026-2027. You have Australia's full support. We extend Australia's sincere thanks to Mr Rafiq Akram of Morocco for his leadership of the Committee in 2025.

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

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

International events

Chair,

Australia's immediate region, the Indo-Pacific, continues to be a priority for our international engagements.

In 2025, Australia was proud to host the 76th International Astronautical Congress under the theme of ‘Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth’. In a first for the IAC, Australia hosted a Pacific Island Countries delegation focused on catalysing deeper engagement with Pacific Island countries on space-related matters and highlighting the importance of Pacific voices in global space conversations.

Chair,

Our region will be a focus at the UN Climate Change Conference – COP 31 – which Australia is working with Türkiye to deliver. Australia’s partnership with our Pacific neighbours will amplify the region’s climate leadership, innovation and solutions. Australia will support the Pacific to host a Pre-COP in Fiji from 5 to 8 October and a special Leaders’ component in Tuvalu, providing an important opportunity to bring the world to the Pacific, to see climate impacts and solutions firsthand.

Chair,

Australia is pleased to be the 2026 Chair and host the plenary of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) in Hobart in November. The CEOS Plenary will similarly discuss matters of critical importance to the Indo-Pacific region. The theme ‘Positioning for success in a rapidly changing context’ focuses on environmental resilience.

Recent developments

Chair,

We support the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and welcome the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's (STSC's) endorsement of the Working Group's final report and extension of the working group. We support continued work on its work plan for 2026-29 with a view to reaching consensus.

We continue to support the work of the Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness including in response to its questionnaire; and look forward to the presentation of the Expert Group's initial recommendations for preliminary feedback.

Chair,

Australia was pleased to participate in the 'Promoting the Airspace Integration of Space Activities' event held during this year's STSC. We welcome the MOU between UNOOSA and the International Civil Aviation Organization which aims to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding.

Liquidity Crisis

Chair,

Australia notes with concern the negative and ongoing impact of the liquidity crisis on the operating budget of UNOOSA and activities that the Office undertakes as requested by Member States. We welcome initiatives being discussed by the STSC Working Group of the Whole including ways to optimise our time and resources. Australia appreciates efforts to find ways to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the meetings of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Closing

Australia considers there is a clear operational and practical need to work together in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. We continue to support diversity of views, including from non-governmental stakeholders, and opportunities for these to be provided, as appropriate.

We affirm the important role of the Committee in facilitating a consensus-based approach to addressing emerging challenges, and we will continue to engage in this endeavour.

Thank you.