



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

10-18 June 2026

Statement by Australia

Agenda Item: 6 – Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

Over the past two decades, space-based technologies have become indispensable to modern life and global economic prosperity – providing critical services to address global challenges.

At the same time, the space environment is becoming increasingly crowded and contested. All states must work collectively to establish effective measures to ensure the safety, security, and sustainability of outer space. In a period of geopolitical tension, continued cooperation through existing multilateral frameworks is essential to ensure space remains peaceful and accessible to all.

Chair,

We recognize the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) as the central United Nations platform for issues related to the peaceful use of outer space. Its work forms part of a broader international framework, complemented

by UN disarmament bodies – particularly the General Assembly’s First Committee – which play a vital role in advancing initiatives that encourage responsible behaviour, reduce tensions, and prevent miscalculation.

Australia supports discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in all its aspects. Australia strongly advocates for a behaviour-based, non-binding space security framework, which offers flexibility in response to rapidly evolving, dual-use technologies, while fostering trust and mutual understanding among space actors. The Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability for Outer Space Activities could serve as a model for such a framework.

Chair,

It is important that these discussions continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on space security.

Australia continues to work with regional partners to this end. In November 2025, Australia co-chaired the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Peace and Security in Outer Space with the Philippines and Singapore. The workshop brought together ARF participants and international experts to deepen regional understanding, contextualise global discussions within the Indo-Pacific, and build capacity on practical measures for peaceful and sustainable space use.

Discussions emphasised the importance of a pragmatic, incremental approach grounded in cooperation, transparency, and confidence-building.

The workshop also underscored the need for stronger links across the multilateral system. Geneva-based disarmament discussions and Vienna-based work on space safety and sustainability should be complementary, not pursued in silos. In this regard, COPUOS, supported by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, plays a critical role in advancing cooperation, information sharing, and best practices. Joint sessions of UNGA First and Fourth Committees focused on Outer Space have played a useful role in building links and breaking down silos and we welcome future such sessions.

Australia welcomes continued dialogue on these issues and looks forward to active participation in upcoming meetings of the UN Open-Ended Working Group.

Thank you.