



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs



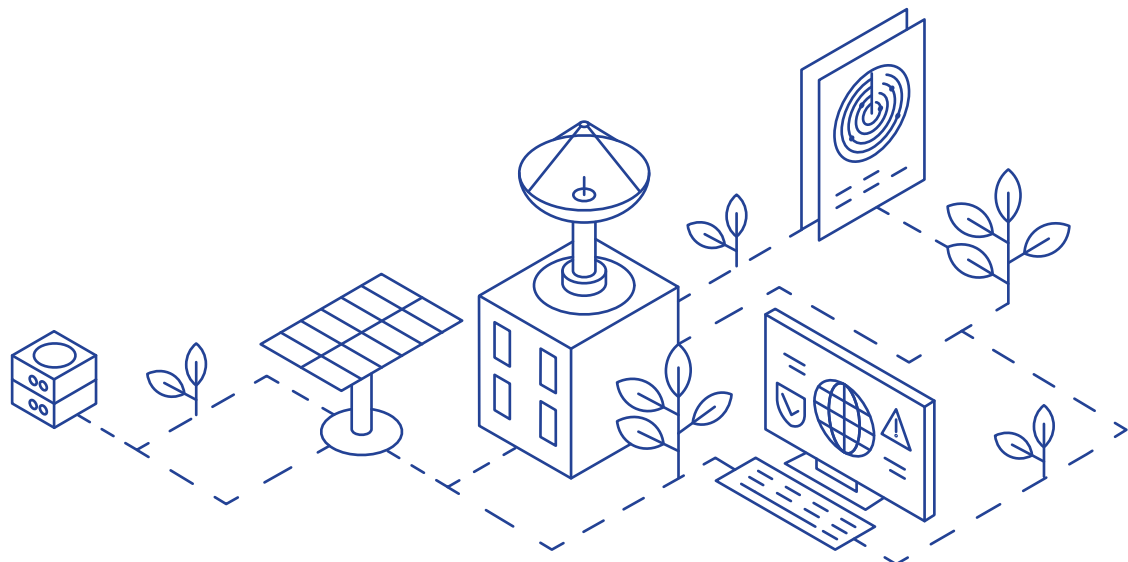
PORTUGUESE
SPACE AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE

LISBON

DECLARATION ON OUTER SPACE

MAY 2024



This declaration was prepared by the Portuguese Space Agency in the context of the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Conference, 14-15 May 2024, co-organized with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). Contributors to the declaration includes UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) Member States, Civil and Youth Organizations, Industry and Academia. It is a non-consensualized summary of the discussions which took place during the preparatory events.

At the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, UN Member States requested the United Nations Secretary-General to report on recommendations to respond to current and future challenges. In the UN 75 Declaration (UN75), Governments called for a renewed multilateralism that strengthened global governance for present and future generations.

In response to UN75, the UN Secretary-General, released “Our Common Agenda” which included a section on identifying and addressing the challenges and benefits of the exploration and use of outer space, as well a section on outer space governance. The third commitment, titled “Promote peace and prevent conflicts,” highlights the importance of the space sector to everyday life. It also recommend the organization of a high-level multi-stakeholder “Summit of the Future” to advance ideas for governance arrangements, which would be preceded by preparatory events and consultations, to among other topics “seek high-level political agreement on the peaceful, secure, and sustainable use of outer space, move towards a global regime to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities”.

This initiative builds off Resolution A/RES/76/3, “The “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 25 October 2021. This resolution recognized how space tools are essential for sustainable development and emphasized the positive impact of space activities to life on Earth including through the gathering of essential data to monitor the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States Parties to the Paris Agreement.

On May 29th, 2023, the UN Secretary-General published Policy Brief 7 “For all humanity: The future of Outer Space governance” which underscores the need to understand and address the emerging challenges to outer space security and sustainability and highlights the need for a response from the international community that is both agile and multi-stakeholder. The Policy Brief identified, space debris, space traffic management and space resource activities as the most pressing challenges pertaining to space sustainability.

The United Nations/Portugal conference on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities provided the opportunity for Member States, the private sector, and civil society to actively contribute to the process of, and lead-up to the Summit of the Future by offering a platform for engagement on these vital issues.

The conference, and its two preparatory virtual events, aimed to discuss these challenges and foster collaboration amongst the diverse stakeholders involved in outer space activities and collect valuable information from academia, industry, policy makers and Member States.

This document builds upon the extensive, open, and independent debate that took place during the conference and its preparatory events, as reported to COPUOS Subcommittees in A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.34 and A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.33.

Many participants in the Lisbon Conference underline the importance of ensuring that outer space remains a safe, sustainable and an inclusive domain for generations to come, and through the series of transparent multi-stakeholder dialogues organized by Portugal and UNOOSA this Declaration identifies:

1. That the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees retains a principal role as the appropriate forum to discuss current and emerging challenges to the safe and sustainable use of space and to reach consensus on the effective and practical international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space that may lead to internationally recognized governance regimes, particularly those concerning space debris, space traffic coordination, and space resources, including through the development of voluntary, non-legally binding principles and guidelines;
2. The advancing of multilateral efforts for the peaceful, safe and sustainable use of outer space and the need for government and multistakeholder cooperation to establish guidance for sustainable space activities are of paramount importance;
3. The benefits of multi-sector and meaningful multi-stakeholder participation, with respect to the development of norms, rules and principles for space activities, for a comprehensive approach to space governance, should be enabled, for example through a dedicated platform within COPUOS;
4. That there is a need for international coordination to foster transparency, clarity and consistency of relevant policies and regulations across the various existing forums and initiatives, to effectively address and promote the safety and sustainability of space activities at large and in a manner that space operators, both public and private, can abide by;
5. The importance of expanding and strengthening youth participation in national and international space activities and UN-led decision-making processes through dedicated avenues that include the viewpoint of youth, as well as through intergenerational dialogues and to preserve the sustainable and peaceful exploration and use of space for generations to come;
6. The Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future as key initiatives for fostering greater cooperation and coordination in outer space exploration and utilization including the role of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and to capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing space nations.

Lisbon, May 15th, 2024