



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs



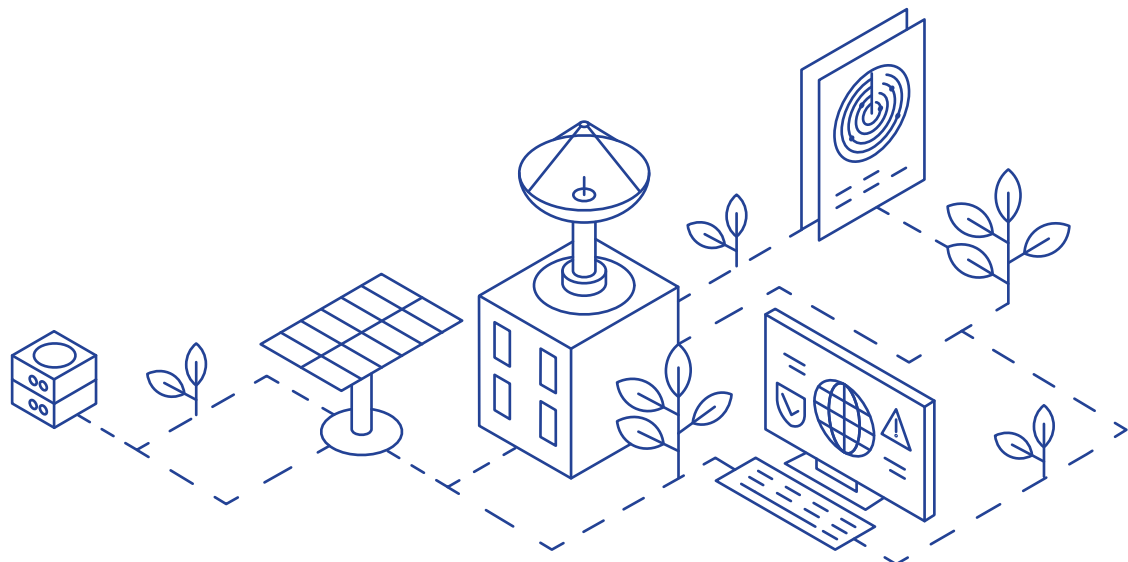
PORTUGUESE  
SPACE AGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE

# LISBON

# DECLARATION ON OUTER SPACE

MAY 2024



This declaration was presented at the UN Portugal Conference for Management and Sustainability of Outer Space in Lisbon on 14 and 15 May 2024 and presented as a conference room paper at the Sixty-seventh session of COPUOS (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.25/Rev.1), co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America and Uruguay.

## The Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space

This declaration was prepared by the Portuguese Space Agency in the context of the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Conference, held on 14 and 15 May 2024, co-organized with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Contributors to the declaration include the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Member States, civil society and youth organizations, industry and academia. It is a non-consensualized summary of the discussions which took place during the preparatory events.

On the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, Member States requested the Secretary-General to report with recommendations to respond to current and future challenges. In the declaration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, Governments called for reinvigorated multilateralism and for strengthened global governance for present and future generations.

In response to that declaration, the Secretary-General released the report entitled “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 as a section on outer space governance. The third commitment, entitled “Promote peace and prevent conflicts”, highlights the importance of the space sector to everyday life. It also recommends 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.

The initiative builds on General Assembly resolution 76/3, entitled “The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development”, adopted by the Assembly on 25 October 2021. In that resolution, the Assembly acknowledged the positive impact that space activities had on life on Earth and emphasized that space tools were highly relevant for sustainable development, including by providing essential data for the indicators used to monitor the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement.

On 29 May 2023, the Secretary-General published policy brief 7, entitled “For all humanity – the future of outer space governance”, in which he underscored the need to understand and address the emerging challenges posed to the security and sustainability of outer space and highlighted the need for an agile and multi-stakeholder response by the international community. 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 the 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 were aimed at discussing these challenges and fostering collaboration among the diverse stakeholders involved in outer space activities, and at collecting valuable information from academia, industry, policymakers and Member States.

The present document builds upon the extensive, open and independent debates that took place during the Conference and its preparatory events, as reported to the subcommittees of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in documents A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.34 and A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.33.

Many participants in the Lisbon Conference underlined the importance of ensuring that outer space remains a safe, sustainable and inclusive domain for generations to come, and on the basis of the series of transparent, multi-stakeholder dialogues organized by the Government of Portugal and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the present declaration identifies:

1. That the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees retain 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 effective and practical international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space that may lead to internationally recognized governance regimes, particularly regimes concerning space debris, space traffic coordination and space resources, including through the development of voluntary, non-legally binding principles and guidelines;
2. That the advancing of multilateral efforts for the peaceful, safe and sustainable use of outer space and the need for government and multi-stakeholder cooperation to establish guidance for sustainable space activities are of paramount importance;
3. That the benefits of multisectoral 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 the Committee;
4. That there is a need for international coordination to foster the transparency, clarity and consistency of relevant policies and regulations across the various existing forums and initiatives, in order 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 United Nations-led decision-making processes through dedicated avenues that include the viewpoint of youth, as well as through intergenerational dialogues, with a view to preserving 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 Office for Outer Space Affairs in those initiatives and in capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing space nations.