

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

First Committee – 80th Session

Thematic Debate – Outer Space

Statement by the Republic of Austria

delivered by

Julia Eberl

Counsellor

New York, 27 October 2025

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

We align ourselves with the statement by the European Union.

All of our societies, be they space-faring or not, are increasingly dependent on services provided through Outer Space systems. The security situation in the orbit of our planet is directly linked with the situation here on Earth.

Any destructive act or escalation in Outer Space would have serious consequences for a wide range of critical civilian services and heavily impact our economies. Through the current dynamics we see a general risk of a weaponization of Outer Space, which is of great concern to us.

Mr. Chair,

Austria supports the multilateral efforts to reduce threats, strengthen space security and to prevent an arms race in Outer Space, which would ultimately come at the expense of the security and interests of all humankind.

Past discussions on further efforts to prevent an arms race in Outer Space in the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament were not able to bridge conceptual differences. The OEWG on the Prevention of an Arms Race in all its Aspects provides us with an opportunity for a holistic discussion in which different approaches can find a common home. It further allows us to build upon previous work-streams and longstanding multilateral efforts. We stress the importance that we attach to multi-stakeholder engagement in these discussions.

The work of the OEWG should be conducted in complementarity with the efforts undertaken in the framework of COPUOS, which has delivered concrete measures and remains the main forum to discuss the peaceful uses of Outer Space.

Mr. Chair,

The Hague Code of Conduct and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space play an important role, particularly given the exponential increase of space launches. Possible synergies should be explored. We encourage States that have not yet done so to ratify all Outer space treaties.

Mr. Chair,

We are particularly concerned about the development and testing of kinetic anti-satellite capabilities. They endanger the current and future peaceful use of Outer Space, raise threat perceptions and create extensive space debris. The conduct of non-kinetic attacks and cyber warfare on Outer Space systems is extremely concerning as it is difficult to ascertain accountability and responsibility for such attacks.

The highly disruptive potential of malicious space operations targeting space objects entails significant repercussions on civilians on earth. We are therefore particularly concerned about the potential humanitarian consequences of a conflict in Outer Space on Earth. We emphasize that international law, including international humanitarian law, fully applies to Outer Space. Outer Space must remain the province of all humankind as set out in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

I thank you