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## UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

### **Statement on Agenda Item 51 – Fourth Committee**

**United States of America  
November 4, 2020  
New York, NY**

The United States continues to advance its priorities in the outer space domain in the pursuit of science, security, and economic prosperity. These goals can only be attained through promoting the responsible use of space, ensuring a transparent and predictable framework for space activities, and pursuing space exploration and resource utilization beyond low-Earth orbit. No endeavor embodies these priorities more than the Artemis Accords, a U.S.-led effort to establish a common set of principles, which reinforce and implement the Outer Space Treaty. As the Artemis program is executed, the nations that have signed the Accords are committed to building a transparent, safe, peaceful, and prosperous future for all of humanity to enjoy through cooperative space exploration and utilization activities. NASA Administrator Bridenstine, on behalf of the United States, joined seven partner nations in signing the Accords on October 13, and we look forward to forging new partnerships on this ambitious endeavor with additional nations.

The United States views international cooperation as essential to the safe and sustainable exploration of outer space, and we consider the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) as the preeminent United Nations forum for nation states to discuss all outer space issues pertaining to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Since its inception in 1959, COPUOS has promoted international cooperation in space activities and has fostered information exchange, capacity building, and the development of “best practices” for the latest advances in space exploration and applications. COPUOS continues to showcase its utility, particularly in the adoption of the 21 long-term sustainability guidelines in 2019. We are therefore very pleased to support the Resolution proposed by Romania in its capacity as Chair of COPUOS to ensure the continuity of the work of the Committee in these challenging times. We would also like to thank the former Chair from Brazil and the staff of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs acting as the Committee’s Secretariat, for their tireless efforts to gain member state consensus on the Decisions and Actions endorsed by the resolution.