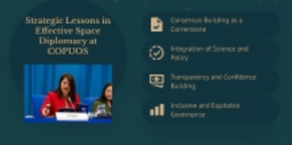
# Achieving Success at COPUOS: Lessons Learnt from STSC

Ulpia-Elena BOTEZATU




# COPUOS and STSC

- COPUOS was founded in 1959 to bring together nations engaged in space exploration and those that are not.
- The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) plays a critical role in integration of science and technology for ensuring sustainable practices in space.
- COPUOS - STSC foster global cooperation for a secure space environment.
- COPUOS (and STSC) take decisions exclusively by consensus of all Members.

# STSC Milestones under Romania's Leadership 2024-2025

## Establishment of ATLAC (2024)

- In June 2024, COPUOS established the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) based on a proposal from Romania.
- The primary objective of ATLAC is to enhance consultations on lunar activities among nations.
- Supported by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), ATLAC is co-led by Romania and Pakistan.
- This initiative promotes collaboration to prevent harmful actions on the Moon and fosters constructive dialogue between countries.
- ATLAC serves as a platform for countries to share ideas and discuss lunar exploration responsibly.
- Membership of an Action Team (open as not defined in procedures) versus a Working Group (States only)

## Inclusion of 'Dark and Quiet Skies' (2025-2029)

- The STSC has established Dark and Quiet Skies as a multi-year agenda item for 2025-2029.
- This decision reflects the urgent need to address challenges from satellite constellation and light pollution.
- A collaborative platform at 2 sessi on astronomers, satellite operators, and policymakers.
- Technical and regulatory measures will be developed to protect, mitigate the anomalies for astronomy.
- The initiative focuses on establishing best practices for the coexistence of satellite operations and environmental observations.

## IYAPD 2029: astronomy, citizens' science, planetary defence, collaboration

Contact UNOOSA to get involved
oosa@un.org

## International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence 2029

- The UN General Assembly designated 2029 as the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence (IYAPD 2029) based on STSC recommendations.
- The initiative is promoted by Romania, Japan and the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) recognizing the significance of asteroid impacts and highlighting the need for increased awareness, science and action.
- IYAPD 2029 aims to maximize the public and scientific benefit through observations and collaborative efforts.
- The initiative focuses on developing strategies to track potential hazards.
- Special emphasis is placed on supporting developing nations in their preparedness against potential asteroid threats.

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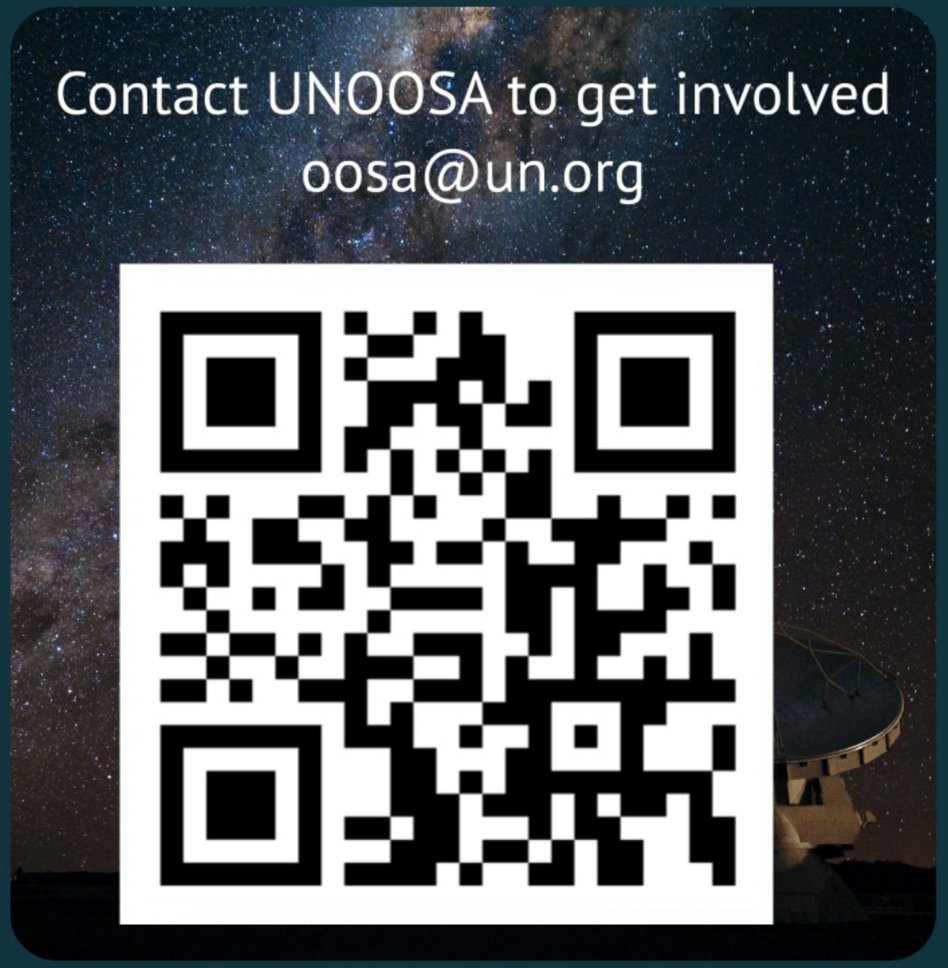
# International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence 2029

- The UN General Assembly designated 2029 as the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence (IYAPD 2029), based on STSC recommendations.
- This initiative, promoted by Romania, aligns with the approaching asteroid 99942 Apophis, highlighting the need for increased planetary defense awareness.
- IYAPD 2029 aims to educate the public and stakeholders through simulations and collaborative efforts.
- The initiative focuses on developing strategies to tackle asteroid threats.
- Special emphasis is placed on supporting developing nations in their preparedness against potential asteroid impacts.

# IYAPD 2029:
# astronomy, citizens' science, planetary defence, collaboration

# Inclusion of 'Dark and Quiet Skies' (2025-2029)

- The STSC has positioned 'Dark and Quiet Skies' as a multi-year agenda item for 2025-2029.
- This decision reflects the urgent need to address challenges from satellite proliferation and light pollution.
- A collaborative platform will unite astronomers, satellite operators, and policymakers.
- Technical and regulatory measures will be developed to protect night sky accessibility for astronomy.
- The initiative focuses on establishing best practices for the coexistence of satellite operations and astronomical observations.

# Strategic Lessons in Effective Space Diplomacy at COPUOS


- Consensus-Building as a Cornerstone
- Integration of Science and Policy
- Transparency and Confidence-Building
- Inclusive and Equitable Governance

# Applying Lessons to the Dark and Quiet Skies Challenge

Addressing the balance between satellite proliferation and the preservation of astronomical heritage requires collective diplomatic efforts.

### Consensus and Cooperation

Leverage the new agenda item for collaborative discussions aimed at establishing consensus guidelines that address the impact of satellites on astronomical observations.

### Science-Policy-Industry Dialogue

Encourage interactions among scientists, satellite operators, and policymakers to ensure that policy developments are rooted in scientific evidence and practical industry insight.

### Transparency Measures

Promote the sharing of orbital data and planned satellite deployments to facilitate informed planning and adaptation by astronomers.

### Inclusive Solutions and Global Equity

Engage all nations, particularly those with developing space programs, to ensure their perspectives and needs are included in the discourse on preserving dark and quiet skies.

# The Future of Space Diplomacy

- Romania's leadership at COPUOS highlights the effectiveness of collective action in space governance.
- Key principles of consensus, transparency, and inclusivity were embraced in recent discussions.
- A strong foundation has been established to tackle urgent challenges like lunar exploration.
- Efforts are focused on preserving dark and quiet skies in outer space.
- The ultimate goal is to foster a sustainable and peaceful environment in outer space.

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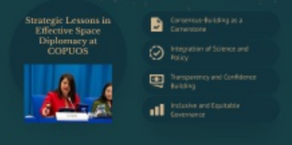


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