A photograph of a space station orbiting Earth, with the planet's surface and clouds visible below. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal and blue gradient.

Global Governance of Outer Space Activities - Role of COPUOS and UNOOSA

UN-Space Panel

ESCAP, Bangkok, 9 December 2022

Niklas Hedman



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

- ❑ Secretariat to COPUOS
- ❑ Secretariat to ICG, SMPAG, UN-Space
- ❑ Discharging the responsibilities of SG under the space law treaties and principles
- ❑ Facilitating access to space-related assets both on the ground and in orbit, data and solutions
- ❑ UN-SPIDER
- ❑ Contributing to efforts to address challenges to safety, security and sustainability



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space



1958 ad hoc body. 1959 established as permanent body (GA resolution 1472 (XIV))

Consensus principle applies to the work of COPUOS

- ❑ Developing international space law
 - Has created 5 treaties (OST, ARRA, LIAB, REG, MOON) and 5 principles (Legal Declaration, Television Broadcasting, Remote Sensing, NPS, Benefits Declaration)
 - Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines
 - Safety framework for nuclear power sources (NPS)
 - Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines)
 - GA resolutions on launching State, registration practice, national space legislation
- ❑ COPUOS has expanded the number of States members from 18 (1958) to 100 (2022). Has 42 permanent observer organizations (IGO and NGO). COSPAR the first observer (1962)
- ❑ Two subcommittees: Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) and Legal Subcommittee (LSC)
- ❑ COPUOS reports annually to GA Fourth Committee – resolution on “international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”

100 States members of COPUOS



Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

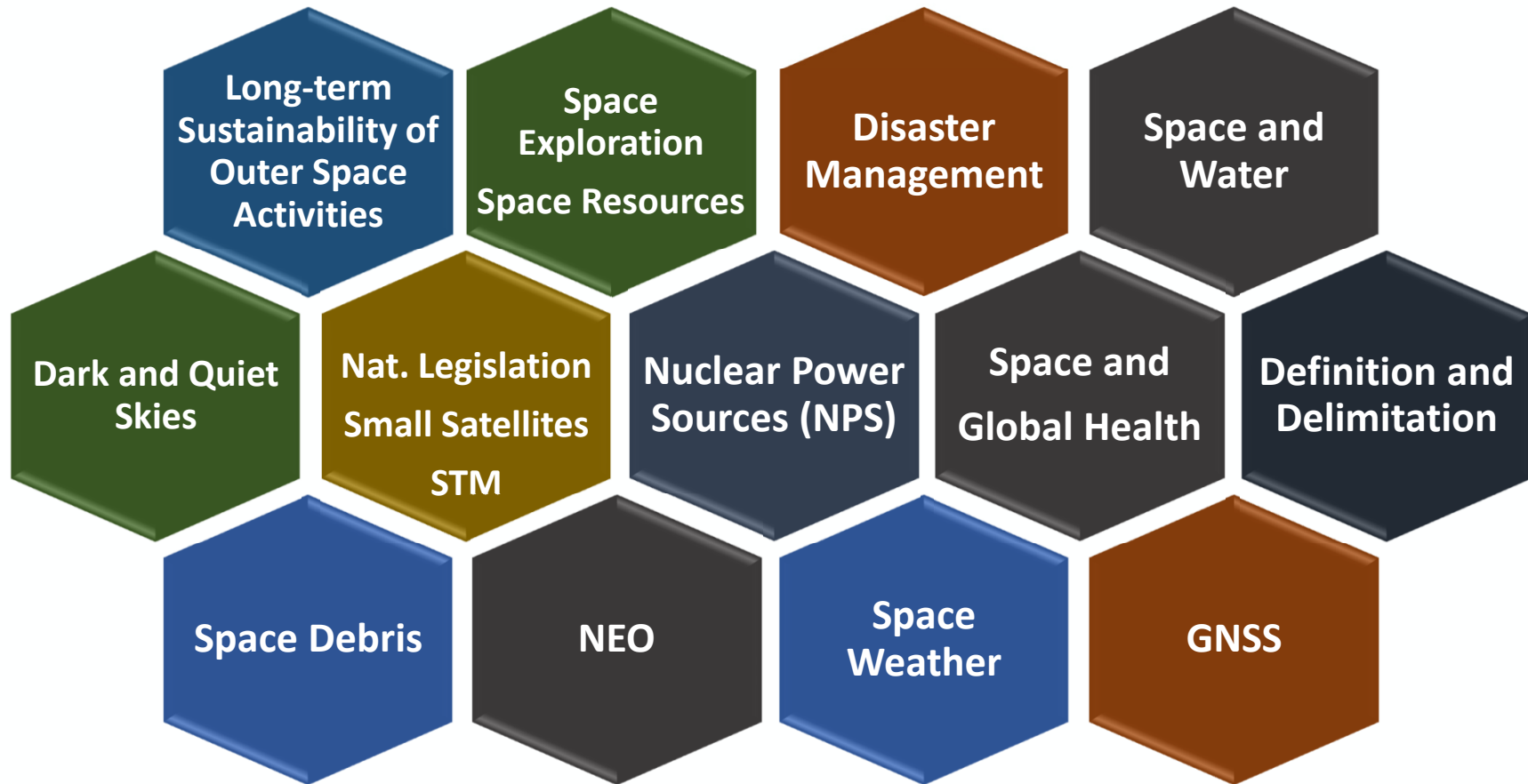
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

(Guatemala and Uzbekistan to become new members upon GA Plenary action in December 2022)

COPUOS

Agenda snapshot



Governance phases of COPUOS

1960 – 1980: Treaties

(1963 Declaration, OST 1967, ARRA 1968, LIAB 1972, REG 1975, MOON 1979)

1980 – 2000: Principles

(Broadcasting 1982, Remote Sensing 1986, Nuclear Power Sources 1992, Benefits Declaration 1996)

2000 – 2020: Resolutions, Guidelines

(Resolutions: Launching State 2004, Registration Practice 2007, National Space Legislation 2013;
Guidelines: Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines 2007, Safety Framework for NPS 2009, Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities 2019)

2020 - ...

Space Governance - a cross-cutting projection



- **Celestial bodies:** exploration and innovation, utilization and presence - space resources - environmental and cultural/heritage protection - planetary protection (forward contamination) - planetary orbits →
- **Earth orbits:** security, safety, and sustainability of outer space activities - registration/frequency management/GSO - space debris – space weather - SSA - fabrics of “space traffic management (STM)” →
- **Planet Earth:** planetary defence, planetary protection (backward contamination), space weather (also orbits), dark and quiet skies, sustainable development →
- Order - predictability and consistency – balancing policy, commercial, scientific interests