



Statement of APSCO Delegation
at the 63rd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of
the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 15-25 April 2024

Agenda Item 5. Information On the Activities of International
Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space
Law

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item 5 and congratulate you on your election as the new chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation has full trust and confidence in your leadership to steer this committee, and we extend our full support to you and to the work of LSC. We also extend our appreciation to, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, the Director of UNOOSA, and her team, for very efficient planning, and successfully organizing this session.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO is an inter-governmental international organization devoted on tapping regional resources, promoting multilateral cooperation in space science, technology and applications and capacity building in space related fields. It provides a cooperative mechanism for countries to work together for the development of collaborative space programs & space capabilities.

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APSCO currently has fourteen Member States. That include 8 full Member (Bangladesh, China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, and Türkiye) one Signatory Member: Indonesia (ratification in process), one Associate Member: Egypt (ratification in process) and four Observers: Mexico, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences (AUASS) and ISNET (Inter-Islamic network on Space Science and Technology). China is the host country for APSCO and the Headquarters of APSCO is located in Beijing, China. APSCO also has cooperative partnerships with Argentina and Russia on satellite data sharing and capacity building in space related fields.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Space law and policy is one of the core areas of APSCO's Development Plan and is an essential element for APSCO's role to contribute in the inclusive development of Member States in the field of space. Apart from technical projects and training and education activities, legal and policy issues related to space activities holds equal importance and are equally crucial. In this regard, the "Strategy for Space Law and Policy of APSCO (2021-2030)" has been developed. This strategy focuses on enhancing the role of APSCO in the field of space law and policy to provide more practical benefits to Member States and strengthening the contribution of APSCO in the international community in the fields of space law and policy.

APSCO covers:

- Capacity Building of member States in Space Law and Policy
- Organizing Executive Courses for Leaders
- Cooperation with UNOOSA for Legal Advisory Services
- Cooperation on Knowledge Enrichment and Capacity Building on Drafting of National Space Policy
- Participation at the Legal Sub Committee of UNCOPUOS
- Cooperation with ITU
- Establishing Alliance with Institutes/Organizations of Space Law
- Conducting Research on Contemporary Issues in Space Law and Policy
- Supporting Joint Publications
- Creating Pool of Space Law and Policy Experts

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO promotes International Cooperation in Space Law and Policy and has been actively cooperating with international space community for various activities. In the year 2023, under “UNOOSA/APSCO Project for Capacity Building in Drafting of National Space Legislation for APSCO Member States”, a workshop was organized back-to-back UNCOPUOS main session for technical advisory services for development of National Space Legislation in APSCO Member States.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I am delighted to share that the inauguration of APSCO Space Law Alliance (ASLA), which was approved by the 17th Meeting of APSCO Council approved the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the APSCO Space Law Alliance (ASLA), in November 2023. And the Alliance has been formally inaugurated on 28 February 2024, during annual reception of APSCO in Beijing.

48 representatives from 39 space organizations, institutions, and universities from Member States of APSCO participated in the four preparatory meetings of ASLA. The alliance will promote the joint activities, joint research and collaboration on matters related to space law and policy with space organizations, institutions and universities in Member States of APSCO and provide exchange opportunities to boost capabilities, knowledge sharing and research among Members of ASLA.

Developing regional and international alliance of space law institutions was listed as one of the key strategic areas in the “APSCO Strategy for Space Law and Policy of APSCO (2021-2030)” which was approved by the APSCO Council in 2020.

We welcome all partners to work with the APSCO Space Law Alliance (ASLA).

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO considers capacity building as the most crucial pillar for developing responsible behavior and promotion of international space law. APSCO has been making efforts to help its Member States and region by providing them opportunities related to capacity building in space law, that varies from degree education to training and consultation.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO and its Members are strongly committed and strongly support international space cooperation especially through UNOOSA mechanism. APSCO is open to all countries and the space community to cooperate for peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you all for your attention.

Aisha Jagirani (Ms.)

Director General

Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs (ER&LA)

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)