

## Agenda Item 4

### General Exchange of Views

#### **Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, the Indian delegation would like to join with other delegations in congratulating you on assuming the Chair of this 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the STSC. We are confident that with your rich experience and able leadership, the Session will achieve its objectives and assure you of the wholehearted cooperation and support of the Indian delegation. We also take this opportunity to appreciate the entire UNCOPUOS team for organising various events in line with the UNISPACE+50 resolution in the year 2019 and the follow up sessions in an excellent manner. We also thank the Director, UNOOSA for the able stewardship and the Secretariat for their valuable support for the work of COPUOS and its sub-committees.

#### **Madam Chairperson,**

Over the past five decades of pursuance of space activities, India has emerged as a major space faring nation with an indigenously nurtured space programmes for the peaceful uses of outer space. We have well established technological capabilities for space transportation, building space infrastructure and carrying out space application that are well rooted for the cause of national development and governance. While achieving this, we also ensure that India work together with other agencies and countries in meeting the objectives set by the COPUOS.

#### **Madam Chairperson,**

As we acknowledge and appreciate the significant achievements of various Member States in space endeavors, India would also like to inform this august gathering of its accomplishments in the last one year. We had several successful launch vehicle missions deploying satellites for earth observation, communication and navigation purposes. The most recent launches of ISRO include 6 satellite missions which includes Chandrayaan-2, 5 launch vehicle missions ( 4 PSLV and One GSLV MK III) and advanced communication satellite GSAT-30 were also launched from French Guiana. ISRO has recently announced GAGANYAAN - its Human Space Program with intent to send Indian astronauts to space by 2022. Plans are also afoot to launch follow-on mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 mission to Sun.

#### **Madam Chairperson,**

India, with its vast experience in peaceful use of outer space activities, has been sharing its experience through international cooperation to achieve the above goals. Currently we have formal cooperation agreements with 55 countries and 5 multinational bodies. In the last one year, India expanded its space cooperation by signing agreement/ MoU on peaceful uses of outer space with Tunisia and Mongolia.

The space agencies of India and USA are jointly building a microwave remote sensing satellite for earth science studies, named 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)' with L and S band SAR. India and France have jointly released a vision document for long-term space cooperation and both the countries are working on these. Many foreign dignitaries and space agency officials visited ISRO and had meeting on space cooperation initiatives.

Till January 2020, ISRO provided capacity building programme on space technology applications to 3633 officials from 109 countries through UN Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (UN-CSSTEAP) & Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) located in Dehradun.

**Madam Chairperson,**

India is working with the neighbouring South Asian nations to bring the benefits of space borne communication services from *Satellite for South Asia*. India regularly participates in the annual sessions of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) a regional cooperative mechanism, steered by Japan for more than 2 decades. India also actively participates and contribute in various international initiatives like the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), Committee on Earth Observation Systems (CEOS), International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF-2) and Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS).

India, under guidance from UNOOSA, hosted 14th meeting of International Committee on GNSS (ICG) from December 8-13 in Bengaluru. 258 delegates participated from government, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations have participated in ICG-14. Major outcomes being Inclusion of New Zealand as member of ICG and Updating terms of reference.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and Astronautical Society of India (ASI) jointly organised an 'International Symposium on Human Spaceflight Programme' at Bengaluru during January 22- 24, 2020 under the theme 'Human Space Flight and Exploration – Present Challenges and Future Trends'. More than 500 delegates, including national and international technical experts in human spaceflight related technologies from space agencies, astronauts, representatives of International space industries and academic institutes, young professionals and students participated in the Symposium.

India is a party to Joint Declaration of Interest for a Space Climate Observatory (SCO) signed at Paris on June 17, 2019.

India is a party to all the major international treaties/regulations related to outer space, including Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention and has also signed the Moon Treaty. India also implements all the outer space related instruments, including the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. India also actively participate in various meetings and Working Groups of COPUOS during different sessions.

India also implements a number of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) - including registering space objects within the UN register, prelaunch notifications, measures in harmony with the UN Space debris Mitigation Guidelines, participation in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IDAC) activities with regard to space debris management, undertaking Space Object Proximity Analysis (SOPA) and Collision Avoidance (COLA) Analysis and numerous international cooperation activities.

**Madam Chairperson**

India believes that Outer Space is the common heritage of humankind and it is the responsibility of all space-faring nations to preserve and promote the benefits flowing from advances made in space technology and its applications for all.

India is engaged in the process of formulating national space legislation for India, to facilitate the overall growth of space activities in India with enhanced participation of non-governmental sector agencies/ industries.

India has announced an 8-week international programme, named as **UNNATI** (**UN**ispace **N**anosatellite **A**ssembly & **T**raining by **ISRO**) offering capacity building programme on nano satellite development, an initiative being undertaken to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50). The first batch of UNNATI with 30 participants from 17 countries was successfully conducted during January- March, 2019 and the second batch with 30 participants from 16 countries successfully completed the training during October – December 2019. During the course of our deliberations, we will brief the details of the program. Indian delegation would like to thank the member nations, who have participated in the first batch of this unique programme and invite other members to actively participate and get benefitted in subsequent batches.

**Madam Chairperson,**

ISRO is also enhancing its outreach activities by establishing incubation centres across the country to facilitate the usage of space based technologies to larger population of the country especially students community. ISRO has organised a 2-weeks young scientist programme (Yuvika-2019) for students from across the country in May 2019 to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

A new Human Space Flight Centre has been established in Bengaluru which will coordinate and facilitate all future manned mission endeavours. Additionally, we have a detailed and focussed Science Programs with Astrosat space observatory continuing to provide very useful service to scientists across the globe. India has also made an announcement of opportunity for instruments from global scientific community for its mission to Venus.

In conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to once again express its support to this Committee in all its endeavours towards ensuring safety and long-term sustainability of outer space activities for the benefit of entire humanity.

**Thank you Madam Chairperson**