

**Statements of Pakistan Delegation**  
**57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the**  
**United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS):**  
**3 - 14 Feb 2020 Vienna, Austria**

**Agenda Item No. 04: General Exchange of Views**

**Mr. Chairman**

We would like to join other delegations in expressing our felicitations to you on assuming the chairpersonship of the 57<sup>th</sup> session of this subcommittee and assure you of our full support and cooperation for a very productive session that will advance the cause of peaceful uses of outer space.

We would also like to convey our sincere appreciation to Director UNOOSA, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and the secretariat for the excellent work, including the preparation of documentation for the current session of the subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to reaffirm our belief that space is the common heritage of humankind and is not subject to national appropriation by claims of sovereignty. It should be used for peaceful purpose and should remain accessible to all nations on non-discriminatory basis, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical or economic development. In accordance with this belief, Pakistan has ratified all five United Nations space treaties governing the peaceful uses and long term sustainability of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

As a space emerging nation, the prime focus of Pakistan's national space programme is the pursuit of sustainable socio-economic progress. A national space policy is being formulated which will articulate the vision and provide the framework for effective harnessing of the space technologies and applications towards this objective.

At present, Pakistan has four operational satellites in space including two communication satellites and two remote sensing satellites. PRSS-1 is a high resolution remote sensing satellite operating at an altitude of 640 km sun synchronous orbit. PakTES-1A, the first indigenous 300Kg class earth observation satellite, is Pakistan's Technology Evaluation remote sensing satellite, co-launched with PRSS-1. To date more than 250 imaging operations have been performed and earth imagery of around 650,000 km<sup>2</sup> area has been acquired.

Pakistan is operating its own communication satellite PakSat-1R in geostationary orbit since 2011. PakSat-1R provides telecommunication, TV

broadcasting, cellular networking and internet services across South Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe. Pakistan is also operating PakSat-MM1 satellite and two TT&C relay stations have been established in Pakistan.

The data acquired through these satellites is being used in diverse fields such as urban planning, transport, water resource management, agriculture, public health, disaster management, as well as environmental pollution and climate change.

In the realm of space legislation, we are reviewing the domestic legal framework in the light of relevant international instruments related to space activities.

Mr. Chairman

Training and development of requisite human resource through national efforts and international cooperation is an important part of our strategy to build capacity for effective use of space technologies and applications for sustainable development. Moreover, sustained efforts are undertaken to promote awareness about space among masses, especially youth through space fairs, exhibitions, seminars and workshops.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan is also engaged in robust international collaboration for promoting the peaceful uses of outer space through its membership of several international organizations, bilateral agreements and MoUs, and participation in space-related seminars, conferences and workshops around the world. More notably, as a member of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), Pakistan is jointly executing 8 space science, technology and application-based projects. Pakistan's national space commission SUPARCO is engaged in collaborative research with the Chinese Academy of Sciences to study atmospheric composition, climate change patterns and their impacts on snow cover and glaciers. As a result of this collaboration, a "Glacier Atlas" has been developed through the use of state-of-the-art satellite technology. Pakistan is also the host country and founding member of Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET).

Mr. Chairman,

Even as more and more actors turn to space, including private sector entities from the developed world, the space divide – the gap between the advanced space-faring countries and the developing countries with limited or no access to space technologies – not only persists but could widen. The aspiration to use outer space for progress and prosperity on earth will remain unfulfilled if the issue of space divide remains unaddressed. This august forum must play its due role in addressing this challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has been a strong and consistent proponent of the Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space. We are against the militarization and weaponisation of outer space in all its possible manifestations. Space is the common heritage of humankind and all

nations must desist from actions which can lead to its militarization. It is disappointing to note that countries are already treating space as a war-fighting domain and building relevant military capabilities.

Similarly, anti-satellite tests, not least because of their debris generating effect, remain a matter of grave concern. The reports that pieces of debris from an ASAT test carried out last year were still in orbit after nearly 8 months are highly disturbing. We believe that there is a need to address gaps in the international space laws with a view to ensuring that no one threatens peaceful activities and applications of space technologies for socio-economic development. In the absence of strong legal instruments, other states could also follow suit.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to a fruitful exchange of views among member states during this important session of the subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

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