



General Exchange of View
Federal Republic of Nigeria

At the 57th Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-
Committee of the United Nations Committee on the
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Vienna, 3rd -14th, February, 2020

Madam Chair,

1. As this is the first time Nigeria will take the floor during this Session, my delegation joins other delegations before us to congratulate you as you assume the position of the Chair of the Sub- Committee and assure you of our support and cooperation as you preside over the affairs of the subcommittee. We also express our sincere appreciation to Ms Pontsho Maruping of South Africa for the excellent manner in which she guided the work of this sub-committee during the past two years.

2. My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation to the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and the Secretariat for the adequate arrangements made for this Session.

3. My delegation warmly welcomes to the Committee, Rwanda, Singapore the Dominican Republic and congratulate the Moon Village Association as the newest observer to the Committee.

Madam Chair

4. My Delegation aligns with the statement delivered by HE Ambassador Rapulane Molekane, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of African Group.

5. Nigeria also aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency, Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Nigeria will make the following statements in her national capacity.

Madam Chair,

6. 2019 was a significant year for Nigeria as the country celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of its Space Agency on the 5th of May 1999. The occasion was marked by a host of events which included: public lectures and enlightenment, television documentaries on Nigeria is space, children's programmes, award of excellence ceremonies and the commissioning of many new facilities. Some of the facilities that were commissioned during the occasion included:

- Space Incubation Centre
- National Space Museum
- Planetarium
- Space Environment Research Laboratory
- Laboratories and Office complexes at the Agency's various Centres of

Excellence.

I will like to use this opportunity to thank member states of COPUOS that have contributed towards the achievements of Nigeria in the last twenty years in the field of Space Science and Technology.

7. The United-Nations affiliated African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) located in Nigeria, continues to make progress in the implementation of its UN mandate to build indigenous capacity in Space Science and Technology in the African Region. Fifty-one students graduated in November, 2019 from the PGD programme which runs on UN-OOSA developed curricula.

8. Madam Chair, distinguish delegates, my delegation is happy to report that the step taken in 2013 with the commencement of MTech (Space Science & Technology) by the Regional Centre in collaboration with the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria is yielding positive results. Another set of 20 students graduated in November 2019, to make a total of 55 grandaunts since the commencement of the programme.

9. My delegation is also happy to inform you that the UN Centre which serves as the Regional Implementation Centre (RIC) of the Global Monitoring for Security and Environment & Africa (GMES&AFRICA) support programme, is leading a Consortium of seven 7-Partner institutions from five (5) West African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Cote D'ivore, Benin and Burkina Faso). The Action which is on Multi-scale space based Flood Monitoring and Assessment Services for West Africa (NIFMASS) is in its final year of implementation.

10. My delegation will like to use this opportunity to once again express its most sincere appreciation to the Beihang University, Beijing, through the Regional Centre in Space Science and Technology Education-Asia Pacific, China, where some of our staff members at ARCSSTE-E are presently undergoing Masters and PHD Programmes.

Furthermore, Madam Chair,

11. The ARCSSTE-E has continued to carry out her space education outreach programmes on the dissemination of the value of space science & technology to students and teachers at primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions, policy and decision makers and the general public. A detailed report on the activities of the Centre will be presented by my delegation under the appropriate agenda item.

Madam Chair,

12. Nigeria will continue to demonstrate its commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as well as in contributing to the safety of the outer space environment. In the past four years, Nigeria has established a total of 5 permanent laboratories at different locations within our country's landscape which is bordering the magnetic equator, a region of great significance for space weather research. The new space research laboratories are: Space Environment Research Laboratory SERL, Abuja; Space-Earth environment Research Laboratory SEERL, University of Benin; Central Laboratory for Atmospheric Research Ayingba, Space Weather and Atmospheric Physics Laboratory SWAP Lab, Bayero University Kano and the Atmospheric and Space Weather Research Lab, ASWeRL, University of osun,

13. In addition to our existing observation facilities, 7 new magnetometers were installed in 2019 for space weather observation at different locations within the Country. These network of infrastructure monitor space weather and capture data for global usage.

Furthermore Madam Chair,

14. Nigeria also organized the first international colloquium on the equatorial and low-latitude ionosphere at the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, between 9th and 13th September, 2019. The colloquium brought together young researchers and graduate-course students in ionospheric and space weather Physics including policy makers with interest in space-dependent technologies. The colloquium was supported by the University of Lagos and the American Geophysical Union Centennial program. Forty (40) trainees and some senior lecturers were in attendance.

15. Nigeria have also continued to sustain and improve our space weather Nowcasts and Forecast programme in a bid to reaching out to patrons of space dependent operations in our region. We freely made our forecast available via our webpage www.carnasrda.com. We use this opportunity to express deep appreciation to our international partners and hope for continued collaboration for better space weather research for the benefit of humanity.

16. Madam Chair and distinguished delegates, Nigeria's Centre for Basic Space Science is the host of the International Astronomical Union's (IAU), West African Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (WAROAD). In line

with the IAU strategic plan 2030, the office has carried out series of activities within the West African sub region. One of such activities is the:

- *Hosting and coordinating West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers. The summer school is targeted at young researchers, science school teachers and university students with a view to improving the human capital development in the area of space science and technology within the sub region. The 4th edition of the West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers (WAISYA) was held in Abuja from the 21st October-2nd November, 2019 with over sixty (60) participants from all over Africa.*

Madam Chair

17. Nigeria will continue to work with other African Member States in promoting Space Science and Technology in Africa through the African Leadership Congress (ALC) on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development. My delegation will like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Government and People of Ethiopia for successful hosting the last edition of the ALSC at Addis Ababa in December, 2019.

18. Madam Chair, The nature of outer space activities further underscores the need for capacity-building, training and education towards increasing knowledge in several critical areas including the legal framework within which space activities are being carried out. Nigeria stresses the importance of capacity-building for African countries and warmly thank South Africa for continuing to host the Africa Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition organized by the International Institute of Space Law.

Finally Madam Chair

19. Nigeria once again reiterates her position on equitable access to the space domain for all Nations regardless of the level of space technology development and advancement each Nation has attained.

Thank you.