



CANEUS STATEMENT

Sixty-first Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 29th January – 9th February 2024

Agenda Item 12: Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee

“CANEUS’ Space Input to the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future, and Contributions to the 12 Commitments for the Summit of the Future”

By

Milind Pimprikar

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

As this committee is preparing its future role to address new challenges that the 2024 Summit of the Future plans, by adopting an ambitious and action-oriented Pact for the Future, we would like to begin by congratulating UNOOSA Director Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini on her eminent leadership in this process.

Madam Chair,

On behalf of CANEUS and our collaborators, it is my pleasure to update this Committee with our five unique and relevant collaborative contributions to the Summit preparatory process and deliverables, and the 12 Commitments from the UNSG’s “Our Common Agenda”.

First, our contributions to the “Zero Draft” included comprehensive written input to its five Chapters, and presentation to the Summit consultations held at UN-NY on December 13, 2023.

This input covered recommendations from the two G20-B20 Task Forces co-chaired by CANEUS. It added to Zero Draft Chapters #1 and 3, namely “Sustainable development” and “STI & digital cooperation”, and further compliments to “Summit Commitment #7” “improve digital cooperation”. We are now working with current Brazilian G20 Presidency to advance these contributions to the Summit agenda.

Second, the CANEUS-UNOOSA initiative, “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure (IKRI)”, created in partnership with global Indigenous stakeholders, supports Summit commitments #1 and 2, namely “Leave no one behind” and “Protect the Planet”. It also contributed to Zero draft Chapters #1, 3, 4, and 5, namely, “Sustainable development”, “STI and digital cooperation”, “Youth and future generation”, and “global governance”.

Madam Chair,

There is a lack of genuine understanding, acceptance, and involvement of stakeholders on how traditional Indigenous knowledges are understood or approached into sharing the benefits of Space. Moreover, it’s important to address the legalities of how near-Earth space impacts Indigenous communities and how Indigenous knowledge is crucial for space-based governance.



The IKRI offers a major contribution to the Summit and the future role of this committee, by bridging the gap with technological inequalities, especially empowering the Indigenous Youth and future generations with requisite skills.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

Third, we are preparing a unique initiative to demonstrate “Sharing the benefits of Space” to Summit participants in Sept 2024. We are excited that it expects to contribute to 11 of the 12 Summit commitments.

You may recall the highly successful and historic CANEUS-UNOOSA initiative, “My Planet, My Future: Space for Sustainability” exhibit, which was created in partnership with DLR, EC and several space agencies, and showcased at the UNHQ for two months during July-September 2018.

We are now aiming for an enhanced version by developing an “experiential zone”, a novel way to create immersive and engaging experiences. I plan to present relevant details in our technical presentation on February 6.

Madam Chair,

Next, fourth, we are contributing to Summit commitment #10, “boost partnerships” and Zero draft Chapter #2, by leveraging and advancing CANEUS-UNOOA led GlobalSat partnership for the constellation of EO/GNSS/telecommunication Satellites. While this partnership was created with funding from CANEUS, it may also complement recent related initiatives such as G20-Sat, BRICS-Sat, etc.

Madam Chair,

Fifth, and final, there is a consensus amongst global stakeholders that the existing “Outer Space governance framework” has become obsolete and has not kept up with the pace of commercialization and technological advancements.

Therefore, our contribution to Zero draft chapter #5 and Summit commitment #8, offers to develop a new model of space governance, which will help address today's challenges, include diverse space stakeholders, and offer more inclusive governance approaches, including the G20 perspective.

Some of these issues such as “regulatory gaps” and “mega-satellites constellation”, were addressed through our briefing to COPUOS and the G20 recommendations.

Madam Chair,

We sincerely hope to strengthen these contributions further, through our partnerships with stakeholders, and deliberations at the upcoming UN-Portugal Conference in May 2024

Thank you.