

COPUOS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE: 2024
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION (29 JANUARY – 9 FEBRUARY 2024)
BRAZIL/MCTI
ITEM #4 – “GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND REPORTS ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES”

ON BEHALF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OF BRAZIL, MS LUCIANA SANTOS

Mister chair, distinguished delegates

Good morning/afternoon.

On behalf of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil, Ms Luciana Santos, I respectfully greet everyone present. The STSC COPUOS is a demonstration of the interest of member States in collaborating to reach a multilateral path for the advancement of space science and technology, and this needs to be emphasised and celebrated. Therefore, it is a satisfaction for the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), together with the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and the Brazilian Centre for Physics Research (CBPF), to participate once more in this important meeting.

The MCTI hereby reinforces its commitment to draw science, technology, and innovation as pillars of the Brazilian’s development in order that the benefits of space reach the Brazilian society as a whole. On this basis, the Ministry is dedicated to strengthening the synergy between AEB and INPE aiming the enhancement of the Brazilian Space Programme and the promotion of policies, research, and development in the space field, both nationally and internationally. In order to achieve this goal, in 2023 the Brazilian government invested R\$1 billion in the aerospace sector contributing to generate, as highlighted by the Minister, a positive impact on education, specialised capacity-building, generation of high-quality employment and reduction of brain drain in the country. In this respect, it is paramount to mention the promotion of the advancement of the national space industry through a public call that relies on resources from the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FNDCT) to select Brazilian companies to develop satellites and launch vehicles. This initiative aims to support the development of the national private sector focusing on obtaining autonomy in the access of space. In addition, it is utmost to pick up on the recently announced creation of an Aerospace Technology Park in Brazil. The initiative is a partnership between federal and state governments and the private sector. The novel complex will enable advanced research, innovation, and capacity-building focusing in the areas of space, defence, advanced air mobility and commercial aeronautics.

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In the context of the most recent UN report on water resources, Brazil recognises the importance of water for economic and social development. In this sense, among the recent advances in the Brazilian space sector, MCTI wants to highlight the development of the remote sensing satellite Amazonia-1B. Amazonia-1B is part of the AQUÆ Mission, whose main objective is to monitor and plan the use of water resources, one of the most important assets for the planet. It is interesting to call attention that the Amazonia-1B’s payload has complementary applications with the Argentine satellite Mission SABIA-Mar, enabling valuable opportunities for collaboration between the two countries. In this perspective, MCTI underlines the importance of science and technology in creating bonds regionally and worldwide and acknowledges that international partnerships are a valuable model for the development of space missions and space exploration.

In this respect, MCTI points out the development of two new satellites in the umbrella of the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite programme (CBERS), a bilateral collaboration that has been enduring for more than thirty years. Both missions will contribute to the reinforcement of the Brazilian environmental monitoring capacity. While the CBERS-5 mission will carry optical cameras, the CBERS-6 mission will provide images obtained through a SAR payload operating in X-band, allowing the production of data regardless of weather conditions and sunlight. In terms of smaller platforms, MCTI draws attention to a new partnership between INPE and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) to study the feasibility of jointly developing a mission focused on monitoring greenhouse gases. Still in the realm of bilateral international cooperation, MCTI highlights likewise the participation of Brazil in the Artemis Accords. Throughout 2023 AEB was responsible together with the Polish Space Agency (POLSA) for coordinating activities within the scope of the Artemis working group #2, created by NASA to concert the activities of member countries in the scope of the programme.

In the realm of multilateral cooperation, it is paramount to refer to the cooperation in the space area in the umbrella of the BRICS, which aims to establish a remote sensing satellite constellation to aid countries in the block to face challenges related to global climate change, disaster management, environmental protection, and prevention of water and food scarcity. Furthermore, it is of greatest importance to mention the partnership between UNOOSA, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and AEB to conduct research on the Brazilian space sector, develop e-learning material and training for the Brazilian space workforce and to organize the first UN Space Economy Conference in 2024. In relation to space economy, MCTI reminds as well of the G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting to be hosted in Brazil also in 2024. In the scope of the cooperation with UNOOSA, MCTI additionally spotlights the first capacity building event related to the Open Universe Initiative. The online event scheduled to happen in November 2024 will be organised on the Brazilian side by the CBPF.

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In conclusion, it is undeniable that space science, technology and innovation are decisive tools for fighting regional and social inequalities and increasing Brazil's capacity in strategic areas. From this perspective, the satellites both in operation and to be developed will play an important role in monitoring and controlling deforestation, especially in the Amazon region, in addition to contributing to border and costal surveillance and water studies. Moreover, the recent investments to enlarge the Brazilian space infrastructure and to boost the national space private sector certainly will bring an improvement of the capacities of the country, giving the means to Brazil to continue to play a significant role in environmental monitoring, space research and technology development, and hence contributing to the advancement of global knowledge about space and its impacts on Earth.

Thanks for your attention.