General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair and distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, the Indian delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you Madam Chair on your appointment and assures its wholehearted cooperation and support in conducting the current session. We also congratulate the new Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini on her appointment to this important post. The Indian delegations assures its full support to the Director in executing her role. With the rapidly evolving global space sector posing new challenges to the peaceful uses of outer space, the role of UNOOSA in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful and sustainable utilization of outer space needs to be upheld and supported.

Madam Chair,

August 23, 2023 was one of the most significant days in India's space journey, when Vikram lander of the ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission safely landed near the south pole of the moon. The Pragyan rover travelled around the landing point that has been named as 'Shiva-shakti point', carrying out its scientific objectives. The outcomes of the mission would immensely enhance our understanding of the moon and contribute towards future efforts in the utilization of resources on the Moon for the benefit of the humankind. Considering the enormous impact created by the soft landing, August 23 will henceforth be celebrated at National Space Day in India.

Another significant mission undertaken by ISRO is the solar observatory mission Aditya-L1, which would contribute to the global efforts of space weather studies, for mitigating the effects of solar weather events on the health of critical space and ground systems. The spacecraft was successfully inserted into a Halo Orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrangian Point 1 (L1) on January 6th, from where it continues to gather valuable data.

The XpoSat mission launched in Jan 2024 was India's first dedicated polarimetry mission to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.

The Indian human spaceflight mission ‘Gaganyaan’ made major progress during the previous year, with critical technologies like in-flight demonstration of Crew Escape System and Parachute deceleration system.

India has some exciting space missions lined up for the year 2024. The human spaceflight programme ‘Gaganyaan’ will progress towards the first un-crewed mission with continuation of demonstration of critical technologies like the Crew Escape System. The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission will provide a significant capability to study ecosystems, cryosphere, solid earth science and costal ocean processes to address global environmental changes and natural hazards.

Madam Chair,

The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India has set ambitious targets for the country, significant among them being, establishing an Indian Space Station in LEO by 2035 and Human landing on the surface of the Moon by 2040. The country is gearing up towards achieving these targets.

With the release of the Indian Space Policy 2023 and the opening up of space sector for enhanced industrial participation has been yielding results in the democratization of space technologies for providing solutions to variety of challenges. The large-scale adoption of space technologies would be a key driver for overall development and a significant tool for attaining the sustainable development goals. The framework being established to regulate the space activities in the country seeks to balance the need to promote space activities while maintaining long term sustainability of outer space activities.

Madam Chair,

India continued its international cooperation efforts for peaceful uses of outer space, both in continuing partnerships with space fairing nations to jointly address the global challenges and also supporting space aspiring countries from the global south in harnessing space technology for socio-economic development. The UN affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific hosted by

India continued its capacity building efforts by providing courses and other educational programmes, especially benefiting the participants from developing countries.

As a highlight of India's G20 Presidency last year, India has proposed the launch of 'G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation'. The satellite would be built by India, would host payloads from the G20 nations and the data from the satellite would be made available for the global community.

Madam Chair,

COPUOS to maintain its unique role in promoting peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, has to adopt to the rapidly evolving outer space scenario and provide faster and effective solutions to the emerging challenges. The outcome of the Working Group on LTS will be crucial in this respect. The Working Group having studied the implementation of LTS guidelines and challenges to space sustainability, should bring out additional guidelines and revisions to the existing guidelines as necessary, addressing the needs of the current and expected outer space scenario.

We welcome the changes introduced in the method of work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees, and look forward to engage in discussions on further measures for effective utilization of the time by streamlining and revising the agenda items. The Indian delegation looks forward to a productive session and remains committed to contribute positively.

Thank you, Madam Chair and all the distinguished delegates.