



KENYA, ITEM 4 GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

STATEMENT BY AMB. HARRIET NDUMA, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I, KENYA PERMANENT MISSION TO UN IN VIENNA, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 29TH JANUARY TO 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

Madam Chair,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the 61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I also wish to thank your predecessor, **Dr. Juan Francisco Facetti** for ably guiding and steering the discussions during the 59th and 60th Sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
2. Kenya takes this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Ms Aarthi Holla-Maini, the new Director of the United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and looks forward to working closely with her office on enhancing space cooperation and development. We further appreciate the efforts and work that has been undertaken by the Director and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting and supporting the work of this Subcommittee.

Madam Chair,

3. Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the Group of 77 and China and by the Africa Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.
 - 3.1. As an emerging spacefaring nation, Kenya appreciates the role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries, especially under



the “Access to Space for All” joint initiatives. I am pleased to report that under this initiative a team of Kenyan, Ugandan and Egyptian engineers have finalized the Engineering Model of the “Egypt-Kenya-Uganda Climate Camera (EKU ClimCam), an imaging system to monitor the effects of Climate Change” to be hosted on the Airbus Bartolomeo external platform on the International Space Station. This was undertaken through an on-job training and technology development programme at Egyptian Space Agency facilities.

- 3.2. I am also happy to report that Kenyan institutions have been beneficiaries of the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track, Satellite Development Track and Space Exploration Track initiatives. These collaborative initiatives have provided opportunities for the country to enhance capabilities in space systems engineering, satellite operations and space science.

We therefore appreciate and look forward to enhancing our collaboration with partnering institutions and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in making the objectives of “Space 2030” Agenda a reality.

Madam Chair

4. In Africa, regional cooperation in space activities is gaining prominence and providing the much-needed resources to implement projects and develop space capabilities. The African Development Satellite initiative is such an example where Kenya is collaborating with Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda to build capacity in space systems engineering and space operations through development of a small Earth Observation satellite. This project and others will be harnessed under the auspices of the African Space Agency.

Madam Chair



5. My country looks forward to hosting and welcomes all countries participation at the 2nd edition of the Kenya Space Expo & Conference in Nairobi from 18th to 20th June 2024. This biennial event aimed at providing a forum for exchange of ideas, exploring opportunities in the growing African Space ecosystem, and strengthening efforts to promote regional and international cooperation in space activities is open to international participants and exhibitors to showcase technologies, products and services. This year's theme will be "Space Technologies for Societal Benefits" and will be a three-day event conducted in concurrent sessions covering Earth Observation Applications; Space Science and Systems Engineering.

Madam Chair

6. Kenya is committed to the development of its capacity in the space sector in its endeavour to sustainably and effectively harness the benefits of space technologies and applications for sustainable development. In this regard, Kenya successfully hosted the 3rd Capacity Building Workshop on Space Weather and Low Latitude Ionosphere in Malindi from 3 to 12 October 2023. The workshop was jointly organized by Kenya Space Agency, Italian Space Agency, Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Boston College - USA and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. The event had 20 speakers and 29 participants from more than 9 countries. In addition to building capacity, the event also helped forge partnerships and enhance coordination of space-related activities amongst users in both academia and industry, and provided broader opportunities to access space infrastructure.
7. In addition, Kenya will host the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) Capacity Building Workshop from 1st to 8th September 2024 and the International Reference Ionosphere Workshop from 9th to 14th September 2024 in Kilifi. These workshops will advance our knowledge on Space Weather over Africa and give participants



practical tools to enhance their capability in detection and mitigation of adverse weather scenarios.

8. As I conclude **Madam Chair**, I reaffirm my country's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development. In this regard, Kenya intends to resume launch activities from its territory and therefore welcomes strategic partnerships for the construction of a commercial spaceport.

I Thank you.