

Agenda Item 5: General Exchange of Views

Republic of Korea National Statement

Sixty-Fifth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, June 1, 2022

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to join you today to address the Committee at its 65th session. Mr. Chair, we congratulate on your election and we are confident that we will make important strides under your able stewardship. We also thank the Acting Director and the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their contributions throughout the past year.

The Republic of Korea, as a co-sponsor, welcomes the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Space as a Driver of Sustainable Development, which was adopted by consensus. This resolution crystalizes the three-year efforts of the Member States and the Working Group. This resolution also shows us the continued validity and importance of this Committee as a focal point for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful use.

Established initially as an ad hoc committee comprised of 18 members, the membership of COPUOS has grown steadily, making COPUOS the largest forum for discussions on collective efforts to ensuring the safety and sustainability of space. The Republic of Korea, like many other space-faring and emerging nations, holds a significant stake in ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable space environment through appropriate international norms.

However, it is deplorable that, despite ongoing collective efforts toward ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable space, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has been launching various ballistic missiles, with 23 launches including six intercontinental ballistic missiles this year alone. These launches, constituting flagrant violations of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

The Republic of Korea urges the DPRK to cease its provocations which undermine the international legal regime governing outer space and degrade conditions for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea would like to share its recent developments and major space activity plans.

Starting with our efforts with regard to the Space 2030 agenda, we will hold the *Space for Women Expert Meeting* in August in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs as mentioned by the Acting Director and the Brazilian delegate. We believe that capacity building of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education and encouraging their active engagement in the area of space will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including quality education (SDG 4) and gender equality (SDG 5).

The Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to ensuring a sustainable future based on science and technology. We have been monitoring fine dust and climate change-causing substances through our geostationary satellite, GEO-KOMPSAT-2B, and sharing data with countries in the region.

As for the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of

Outer Space Activities, we warmly support the Chair of the working group and express our firm commitment to participate in the discussion actively. In line with its continued efforts to reduce space debris, the Republic of Korea will hold this year's Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) meeting in October. We believe that irresponsible behavior by one state can have reverberating effects on the safe and sustainable development of space, as shown by a recent anti-satellite missile test.

We are also pleased to share that this year marks the beginning of the Republic of Korea's lunar exploration. In August, the Republic of Korea plans to launch the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLLO). This lunar orbiter, equipped with six payloads, including a high-resolution camera, will conduct various science and technology missions around the moon for a year. We will share the details during its technical presentation on agenda item 15.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We are observing increasing international cooperation on space issues this year. The Republic of Korea strongly believes that we nations, should take full advantage of this momentum and actively engage in the relevant fora. Coordination between these fora can bring us closer to coherent norms and voluntary mechanisms in space security domain and space safety and sustainability domain.

With these remarks, the Republic of Korea looks forward to constructive discussions and a fruitful outcome. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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