

**UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Sixty-fifth Session**

**Vienna, 01 - 10 June 2022**

**Statement of the Delegation of Romania**

**Agenda item 5: General exchange of views**

Distinguished delegates,

Mister Chairman, Omran Sharaf, of United Arab Emirates, let me express on behalf of the Delegation of Romania our satisfaction for seeing you in the main chair of this Committee and to transmit to you the support of my delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate. We extend our congratulations to the First Vice-chair, Ms. Jenni Tapio of Finland and to the Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Oleg Ventskovsky of Ukraine.

We would also express our appreciation to the Acting OOSA Director, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his role in the achievements of this Committee, and to the staff of the secretariat, for the excellent activity, in particular in those challenging circumstances.

Under the Chairship of Romania, the UN General Assembly adopted, on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2021, the resolution on Space 2030 Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, that enjoyed a wide support from the UN Member states, having a number of 62 sponsors. We also welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the omnibus resolution 76/76, on December 9, 2021.

Mr. Chairman, since the last session of the Committee space activities extended as volume and areas of coverage. Scientific and exploration missions followed the current pace. However, space developments with direct impact to our planet and civilization had an unprecedented growing evolution. And I can mention here the services oriented to Earth which are providing secure and safe telecommunications, timing, positioning and navigation, Earth surface, atmosphere and interior monitoring, most of them critical for the achieving of the SDGs. Space systems are actually major assets needed for the protection of our planet and civilization, for the safety of the citizen to national and global security.

In such circumstances, the global aspect of space activities was given not only by the geographical coverage of the satellites but in the extension and generalisation of space capabilities, not only as user but also as developer, at the level of a growing number of space-faring countries.

Space systems became critical infrastructure for planet Earth. Some of the major space powers started the process legal recognition of space as an area of for critical infrastructures, process started more than a decade ago by international organisations and some countries, including Romania.

Science is one of the areas which became dependent on space infrastructures. Most of the discoveries regarding fundamental science are given by data and experiments performed by space infrastructures. It is even more important because science is an area with most rapid development in this times of promotion of automation and artificial intelligence.

There are also political rules and regulations which need to be developed or reconsidered. An example is given by the development of the satellite communications by mega-constellations, which started to be individually regulated by some nations.

Within those evolutions, it is crystal clear that the role of COPUOS and its Subcommittees needs to be reconsidered and developed. COPUOS is by far the only global forum where those feature of our dynamic evolving civilisation can be considered and brought to global rules and consensus.

Romania alligns itself with the statement of the European Union in all its components and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Romania as a European Union (EU) country and a European Space Agency (ESA) member state is participating to their programmes and applications. Romania is also a country having its own space agency - ROSA - and is developing its own space programme according to the national strategy and in concordance and complementarity with other international programs.

By a strategy based on Science and technology, Services and Security the space activities are carried by a variety of organisations, public and private, as institutes, universities, industry, SME's, other organisations, a number of 170 contractors being recorded by the national space program. I would like to mention the concentration of some activities in Centres of competence, in areas like: micro-spacecrafts integration and testing, space robotics, artificial intelligence and quantum communications, radiative environments and radiation hardening by power lasers, space-assisted agriculture, human spaceflight training, small launchers.

Mister Chairman, I will mention a few activities developed by Romania since the last session of the Committee.

I am pleased to report that on the 1st of March this year, Romania has become the 16th country to sign the Artemis Accords initiated by NASA, in a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, affirming its commitment to a set of principles for cooperation in the civil exploration and to further invest in Moon and Mars Exploration.

Romania is recognizing the space traffic management (STM) as one of the greatest challenges for the space sector. Since 2014, Romania is a member of the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking (EU SST) Support Framework, thus contributing with sensor capabilities, data-processing and

service functions to support decision making at national and regional levels. Romania is currently developing and extending the optical and radar surveillance and tracking infrastructure, also with a view to accommodate additional new technological upgrades for optical communication and quantum capabilities.

Between 16 and 19 May 2022 the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) organized the Conference and Exhibition "Space and Security for Eastern Europe". Placed in the context of recent regional events, but also as a natural consequence of Romania's involvement in space security throughout the years, the event aimed to discuss the strategic national and European plans regarding space capabilities and critical infrastructures.

Regarding our present agenda, an important item is Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (item 6) and the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters, to ensure the safe and responsible conduct of space activities.

Another important item (item 14) regards the future role of the Committee. As the Romanian delegation mentioned in most of its statements, the role of the Committee should be compliant with the global space developments in all areas including security. The Committee as a unique multilateral forum for fostering dialogue and cooperation should maintain its adequate role in a world where space became a distinct and solid area of human activity.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your attention.