



**STATEMENT BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**MALAYSIAN SPACE AGENCY (MYSA), MALAYSIA
AT THE
65TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE (COPUOS),
VIENNA, 1 – 10 JUNE 2022**

AGENDA ITEM 5: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Mr. Chair,

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate you on your chairmanship for this 65th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Malaysia assures you our full support and cooperation throughout the session. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation made for this session.

2. In addition, Malaysia welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan's applications to participate as full members of the Committee.

3. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Ambassador of Morocco on behalf of Group of 77 and China and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

4. Malaysia fully recognises the importance of space science and technology, as well as their applications, in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Malaysia, as a responsible space player, continues to support the international legal framework for ensuring peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

5. We believe that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is humanity's common heritage. Outer space must be used, explored, and utilised solely for peaceful purposes, and all activities must be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, regardless of their level of economic or scientific development. Malaysia reaffirms our stance on the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind and urge that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes.

6. There is an urgent need to address the serious concern raised by various Member States with regard to the possible further militarisation of outer space. We need to address on how to avoid behaviour that could be construed as threats as well as to mitigate accidents, miscommunication or lack of transparency, which may lead to miscalculations and the escalation of tensions and arms race.

7. We fully support the work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and welcomes the establishment of a Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities. Malaysia looks forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with other members at both working groups in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty and other United Nations Outer Space Treaties, as well as the "Space2030" Agenda.

Mr. Chair,

8. I wish to update the Committee on Malaysia's recent development of space activities since our last meeting in 2021. MEASAT-3d, our next communication satellite, is scheduled to launch on an Ariane 5 rocket on 22 June 2022 from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, to replace the existing MEASAT-3 satellite, which retired due to an anomaly on 21 June 2021. Malaysia is also in the final phase/stage of implementing the Local Space Industry Study to develop the National Space Industry Strategic Plan, which will drive the local space industry to be more viable and globally competitive in order to develop the national new space economy.

9. As a committed country to develop the national space sector in accordance with the rules and accepted norms while ensuring the safety and sustainability of the outer space and to implement the 21 guidelines for long-term sustainability of outer space activities for peaceful purposes, the Malaysian Government had just recently gazetted the Malaysian Space Board Act 2022 [Act 834] on 25 January 2022. Malaysia will establish the Malaysian Space Board to enforce and regulate Malaysian space activities to ensure that the country's space activities are carried out in accordance with the relevant rules and guidelines as agreed at the international level. Through the Act's implementation, Malaysia will be able to fulfil its international obligations and ratify or accede to the relevant international space treaties and instrument that would catalyse the country's role in the research and development of the space industry towards a New Space Economy.

10. Malaysia fully supports UNOOSA on capacity building initiatives, including participation in the Technical Advisory Mission under the Space Law for New Space Actors Project in March 2022, as well as the Space Frontier Working Group under the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency (APRSAF), led by the Japanese Exploration and Space Agency (JAXA). We look forward to continue strengthening cooperation with UNOOSA and various stakeholders in promoting access to programmes that can support the attraction of investment, research and innovation. Malaysia is currently involved in a number of regional space initiatives, including the following:

(i) Asian Herb in Space (AHiS)

Malaysia has already received plant samples from the International Space Station (ISS) in February 2022 after participating in Mission-1: Space Growth Experiment Mission. Malaysian researchers from the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA), the Malaysian Agriculture Research Institute (MARDI), and the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) are currently involved in the study of potential plant samples exposed to the space environment. The research outputs/outcomes are expected to improve researchers' understanding of new knowledge in space agriculture and to provide many opportunities to Malaysian scientists in both fields.

(ii) Kibo Robot Programming Challenge (KPRC)

In 2021, 44 participants comprising 12 teams from Malaysian universities competed in KPRC. One team from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

advanced to the final session and finished fifth overall in the KPRC competition. Malaysia will continue to compete in 2022, and the competition is expected to increase interests in STEM among Malaysian students, particularly in the space-related programming programmes.

Mr. Chair,

11. To conclude, allow me to reiterate that sustainability of space activities can only be achieved through the development of space technology and the outer space applications, which are based on the principle of fair and mutual benefit as well as full respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of States. Malaysia is confident that our exchange of views at this session would pave the way towards strengthening the role of COPUOS as a unique platform for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

With that Mr. Chair, I thank you.