

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the  
65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer  
Space (COPUOS)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as other elected officers of the Bureau, and would like to assure you of Armenia's support and cooperation.

We also express our gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Chair of the Committee, Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso, for his leadership and steering the Committee in the challenging times of global pandemic.

We also recognize the important role and contribution of the Office for Outer Space Activities, and would like to thank Acting Director Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat for their efforts and excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee and its Subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, constitute a unique platform and provide the necessary framework for furthering the exploration and use of the outer space for peaceful purposes, as well as governance of the outer space activities, and strengthening of the body of international legal instruments in this field.

The steadily increasing membership of the Committee is an attestation of the centrality of the COPUOS in the area of outer space activities. Armenia welcomes the new members of the Committee, Angola, Panama, Bangladesh, Kuwait, and Slovenia, and renders support for the applications of Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia has only recently embarked on developing its national space related sector. As a newly emerging space actor, we look forward to cooperation with UNOOSA aimed at building our national capacities in space law and space treaty implementation, identifying needs and gaps in this respect and ways to address them, as well as exchanging knowledge and the best practice.

Adoption in 2020 of the Law on Space Activities provided the necessary legal framework, rules and principles of space activities. Furthermore, Armenia has ratified all the five United Nations treaties related to outer space, provisions and principles of which, as the normative international framework, will guide the efforts of our authorities in developing the first National Space Strategy of the Republic of Armenia as well as other relevant legal regulations and acts.

Taking the opportunity of the session we would like to inform about the recent developments concerning Armenia's space activities.

On 25 May, 2022, the first Earth observation satellite, ARMSAT\_1, that will be owned and operated by Armenia has been launched into space by a SpaceX rocket from Cape Canaveral. The satellite launch was the result of cooperation of the Armenian Geocosmos CJSC and the Spanish Satlantis.

The space mission will contribute to the development of space science and technologies and generate research activities thus further enhancing the space related knowledge in Armenia.

The Earth observation data received from the satellite will be used in the area of agriculture, prevention and management of emergencies, geology, environmental protection, including climate change monitoring, thus supporting the efforts aimed at implementation of SDG goals and of 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Space science and technology are highly relevant for the daily lives of our societies. As noted in the GA resolution 76/76 (adopted on 9 December 2021) space science and technology and their applications, as enablers and drivers of development, provide tools for viable solutions for sustainable development, and can support

the national efforts towards implementation of SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

At the same time, we believe that for this the developing countries would need an improved access to space-based technologies and applications. In this regards we support the Space 2030 Agenda adopted on 25 October 2021 by the General Assembly resolution 76/3 and believe that enhancing space-derived economic benefits, promoting the development of space industry, facilitating the integration of the space sector with other sectors such as energy, public health, environment, as well as using the potential of space to solve today's challenges, including climate change, and leveraging space-related innovations to improve the quality of life will bring us closer to reaching the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Another field where the application of space technologies could help alleviate human sufferings is the area of disaster management and emergency response. Access to, sharing and use of non-sensitive space data and space-based technologies and related services could help national authorities in their disaster risk reduction and disaster management efforts (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030).

The Armenian government attaches particular importance to developing effective national capacities for using the space-based information and satellites observation data in the area of disaster management and mitigation of climate change impact.

In this regard we recognize the important mission of the UN-SPIDER platform, in particular its contribution to ensuring the universal access to space-based information and services relevant to disaster risk management. In October 2021 the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia became an Authorized User of International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", and this summer we will be hosting a UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory mission to Armenia.

We look forward to developing an effective cooperation and partnership with the UN-SPIDER to fully benefit from the expertise and the resources of this platform.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we live in a world where outer space activities ceased to be an exclusive domain of states and many developments in this area are driven by private sector. Therefore, we should explore possibilities for instrumentalizing the innovative space-based solutions for addressing economic and social development needs, especially in developing countries.

The surge in numbers and diversity of space actors bring to the fore and makes paramount addressing the issue of safety and sustainability of outer space activities. In this regards, we welcome as an Important milestone the consensus reached over the Terms of Reference and the Multi-year work plan of the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of outer space activities.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reiterate our support to you and the Bureau, as well as to the mandate and the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Thank you.