

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: 2023

Sixty-sixth session (31 May - 9 June 2023)

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Agenda item 4: General exchange of views.

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

The United Arab Emirates welcomes the Sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and affirms its commitment and support to the committee and its role in contributing to create a safe, secure, and sustainable outer space environment.

Mr. Chair, we have put building our national capabilities and economic growth utmost priority, which has been reflected in the way we plan, execute, and governance our national space projects. We have ensured that every activity contributes to building knowledge and skills.

Mr. Chair, in order to ensure the sustainability of our space program, we have focused enabling the industry on multiple angles,

We have identified our national priority areas through the Space Science and Technology Policy (SSTP), to coordinate our efforts into areas of focus for science & technology sovereignty. With the goal in building a strong, robust, innovative, and competitive commercial space sector that supports the advancement of science and technology within the country.

We have been actively developing and reviewing our regulatory framework to ensure the safety, and sustainability of space activities, in parallel with encouraging innovation and investments in the sector. This year, we have issued 9 regulations including Regulations on the Authorizations of Space Activities and other Activities Related to the Space Sector, Regulation on Human Spaceflight Activities, and Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

We have established a unique platform for global space leadership to debate the space industry's most pressing challenges and drive the new space economy, the "The Abu Dhabi Space Debate", Securing commitment to space as a technology sector most critical for future sustainable development. The first edition of the debate was held last December in UAE, with attendance of over 1000 attendees and 70 speakers from 47 countries. The UAE will submit a Conference Room Paper on the outcomes of the debate during the committee meetings.

We have created a comprehensive capacity building program “Space Academy” – to discover dedicated, hardworking individuals who aspire to join the space sector and preparing them with the right tools and mindset to succeed and prepare the next generation of space engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs.

We focused on supporting private sector through the Space Economic Zones, an integrated program to support the establishment, growth, and sustainability of UAE-based companies in the space sector, maximize the value-added for all beneficiaries, ensure high impact and returns, and develop and nurture innovations within the space industry.

We worked on enabling innovation through the National Space Fund, a AED 3 billion fund aiming to build national capabilities and competencies, raise the economic contribution to diversifying the national economy, and consolidate the UAE’s position in the space sector.

We encouraged generating space applications through Space Data Center, a digital platform that provide scientists, scholars, public and private entities, start-ups, and community members with access to space data to develop algorithms and solutions for addressing national and global challenges, The Space Data Center aim to provide an innovative ecosystem to utilize space data and technologies to address global sustainability challenges, and boost the numbers of companies and patents in space industry.

We aim to spark challenge and innovation through Space Analytics and Solutions (SAS) program, aiming to create commercially-viable applications based on satellite data, increase the demand for value-added services, and solving global challenges in areas including Climate Change, Food Security, and Environment Monitoring.

Mr. Chair, this year, The UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023 at Expo City Dubai to unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical, and ambitious solutions to the most pressing global challenge of our time. This will be an opportunity for us to show the world and raise awareness on the potential of space applications in mitigating climate and environmental challenges.

Mr. Chair, the UAE conducts an annual survey to measure the performance of the national space sector, support its growth, and reinforce the UAE's position as a leading global hub for attracting talent, investment, and innovation.

Mr. Chair, we believe that Space depends on regional and international cooperation, through collaborative initiatives, the UAE has contributed to advancing scientific research, technological innovation, and the sharing of knowledge. By working hand-in-hand with member states, we have successfully launched joint missions, facilitated the exchange of expertise, and promoted capacity-building programs that empower developing nations to harness the potential of space science and technology.

Mr. Chair, esteemed delegates, we will continue to develop progressive and innovative sector that meet and exceed our vision, while strengthening our partnerships to provide a nurturing environment for sustainable development and prosperous economy.