

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: 2023

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Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Agenda item 14: Space exploration and innovation

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Space exploration plays a vital role in expanding our knowledge and understanding of the universe. It offers various benefits that impact, both scientific advancements and everyday life on Earth. Through space exploration, we gain valuable insights, into the origins of our solar system, and the dynamics of outer space bodies. Furthermore, it drives technological innovations, leading to the development of advanced materials, communication systems, and medical advancements. Additionally, space exploration fosters international collaboration, and inspires future generations to pursue careers in science and engineering.

The UAE believes in the importance of Space Exploration. just recently in March 2023, The UAE's first exploration mission, the Emirates Mars Mission, has unveiled a series of unique and groundbreaking observations of Mars' smaller moon, Deimos, to advance our fundamental understanding of Mars' most mysterious moon, and its larger companion, Phobos. The new observations, challenge the longstanding theory that Mars' moons are captured asteroids, and instead point to a planetary origin.

Moreover, The Emirates Mars Mission released the seventh data batch which include 2.1 terabytes of new scientific data, on the atmosphere of Mars, The UAE is sharing all the scientific data captured by the Emirates Mars Mission, with the international space and science community, to enhance our understanding of the red planet.

Mr. Chair, the UAE's second exploration mission, the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt, will build greater understanding of the main belt asteroid features, origins, formation and evolution. It has the potential to open new windows into our understanding of the formation of our solar system, the origins of the building blocks of life found in the asteroid belt, as well as lay the ground for possible future resource extraction from asteroids, to eventually support extended human missions in space.

The space project will be in development for six years from now, its scheduled to be launched in 2028.. The UAE spacecraft 'MBR Explorer' will undertake a 5 billion kilometre journey passing through Mars, to explore seven asteroids in the main asteroid belt, and ultimately landing on the last asteroid in 2034.

The Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt, will help the scientific community answer questions such as:

How does the space environment change asteroid surfaces through time?

And what do the asteroids chemical inventories tell us about main belt evolution, and the movement of water through the solar system?

Mr. Chair, the UAE space exploration program's will drive significant economic opportunities, including new start-ups, international partnerships, and creating new commercial opportunities, to accelerate the growth of innovation and advanced technology industry, and contribute to the international scientific community.

Thank you Mr. Chair.