



Statement of APSCO Delegation
at the 62nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of
the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 20-31 March 2023

Agenda Item 3. General Exchange of Views

Honorable Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item No. 3. General Exchange of Views, at the Sixty-Second Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Madam Chair,

My delegation has full trust and confidence in your leadership to steer this committee, and we extend our full support to you and the work of LSC. We also extend our appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the acting Director of UNOOSA, and his team, for very efficient planning, and successfully organizing this session.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO is an inter-governmental international organization devoted on tapping regional resources, promoting multilateral cooperation in space science, technology and applications and capacity building in space related fields. It provides a cooperative mechanism for countries to work together for the development of collaborative space programs & space capabilities.

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APSCO currently has eleven Member States. That include 8 full Member (Bangladesh, China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, and Türkiye) one Signatory Member: Indonesia (ratification in process), one Associate Member: Egypt (ratification in process) and two Observers: Mexico and ISNET (Inter-Islamic network on Space Science and Technology). China is the host country for APSCO and the Headquarters of APCSO is located in Beijing, China. APSCO also has cooperative partnerships with Argentina and Russia on satellite data sharing and capacity building in space related fields.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO celebrates its 15 years of operation, this year. In the new Development Plan of Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030), a comprehensive vision for Space Law and Policy for the new decade has been developed, referred as the “Strategy for Space Law and Policy of APSCO (2021-2030)”. This strategy focuses on enhancing the role of APSCO in the field of space law and policy to provide more practical benefits to Member States and strengthening the contribution of APSCO in fields of space law and policy at regional and international level. The strategic plan on Space Law and Policy of APSCO focuses on the following key important areas:

1. Capacity Building in Space Law and Policy for Member States
2. Assistance in developing National Space Law and Policy for Member States
3. Extending International Cooperation in Space Law and Policy
4. Developing Regional and International Alliance of space law institutions

Madam Chair,

APSCO has been actively participating at the UNCOPUOS and its sub committees’ s meeting since its inception. APSCO has been making efforts to cover wide spectrum of activities related to legal and policy aspects of space, which covers the capacity building and development of the professionals, institutions and students. APSCO also recognized the role of the leaders in dealing with contemporary issues in space law and policy and thus a new initiative has been taken to provide platforms to leaders to discuss such issues. In this regard, the first APSCO Leadership Development Forum was organized in November 2022.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

During the Leadership development forum of APSCO, the leader from APSCO Member States released a joint statement in which they emphasized on the following:

- the rule of law in space can help ensure the sustainable, secure, and peaceful utilization of outer space that can benefit all humanity. The leaders strongly supported developing new rules, regulations, policies, and practices aligned with peaceful purposes and existing international laws.
- The leaders agreed that the long-term sustainability of outer space is an essential principle for ensuring the continuation of humankind's collective benefits. APSCO, as an international, intergovernmental, and regional organization, ensures enlarging its efforts for cooperation to promote capacity building and understanding of its Member States and contribute to developing relevant regulations, policies, and practices to ensure the sustainability of outer space for present and future generations.
- The leaders emphasized that the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) can act as a central body for making the rules and laws in space. Its scope and mandate should focus on encompassing new challenges in the modern space age and on cooperation, dialogue, and win-win principles, which is the only way to deal with the complex and diverse challenges of the current space age.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO strongly supports international cooperation especially through UNOOSA mechanism, and we are open to cooperate with international space community for peaceful uses of outer space. Also, APSCO very much appreciates the formation working group on space resources and shall actively participate in the working group meetings.

At the end I would like to share that we have made specific statements under agenda item 4, Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law, and agenda item 8, Capacity-building in space law, to elaborate APSCO's initiatives. A technical presentation was given by under Agenda Item No 8. on "UNOOSA/APSCO Project for Capacity Building in Drafting of National Space Legislation for APSCO Member States", to explain in the UNOOSA/APSCO work for

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technical advisory services for development of National Space Legislation in APSCO Member States.

I thank you all for your attention.

Aisha Jagirani (Ms.)

Director General

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Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)