

Kingdom of Morocco

Item 4

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of
Morocco To International Organizations
in Vienna



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى المنظمات الدولية
فيينا

Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered by

**H.E Azzeddine FARHANE, Ambassador, Permanent Representative at the
63rd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on
the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Vienna, 15-26 April 2024

**Check Against Delivery*

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Mr. Chair,

1. At the outset, my delegation commends **Ms. Aarti Holla Maini, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**, for her opening statement, and for her outstanding dedication and assure her of full support in the fulfilment of her mandate.
2. My delegation would like to congratulate you **Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain**, for your appointment as **the new Chairperson of the Legal Subcommittee** and assure you of the full support and total cooperation.
3. Furthermore, my delegation expresses its gratitude to the dedicated Secretariat staff for their diligent preparation in documentation and planning for this meeting.
4. My delegation associates itself with the statements of the G77 and China, as well as the African Group, and would like to make the following comments on its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

1. It is sure that **space sector is experiencing rapid and diversified development**, which not only expands the fields and areas of space use but also **involves new actors and raises political, legal, and ethical questions**. Indeed, **New Space, while offering new perspectives and opportunities, brings major risks that threaten the sustainability and security of space activities**.
2. This diversified actors and space activities, combined with limited space resources, **requires more, than ever, the need for closer cooperation, sustained actions and coordinated management of all space related issues, whether scientific, technical, or legal, in order to guarantee the principals of free access, exploration and exploitation of space for all States, regardless of their level of development**.
3. **In this respect, Morocco remains committed to the principles of the 1967 Treaty, aiming at a fair and rational use of outer space, non-appropriation, and non-militarization, including the moon and celestial bodies**. Morocco believes and remains committed that peaceful use of Outer Space is crucial for long-term sustainability of outer space activities, expressing its commitment to responsible and sustainable space activities in the short and long term.
4. **Accordingly, my delegation welcomes the significant progress in the number of ratifications of the Treaties governing Outer Space**, underscoring the diligent and fruitful efforts of COPUOS and its two subsidiary bodies, particularly the legal subcommittee, as well as the commendable work of the United Nations Office for outer Space Affairs.
5. Within this global approach, **Morocco has contributed to the various working groups of this subcommittee, particularly those pertaining the exploitation and the utilization of space resources, the legal aspects of traffic management, and the application of international law to small satellite activities**.

Mr. Chair,

6. Aware of the importance of technologies as a vector of economic growth, **Morocco has made a firm pledge to the path of mastering advanced technologies and their integration into all economic sectors**, with regard to the importance of space technologies as a vector of economic growth.

7. **Morocco's space activities have undergone notable development after the launch, in November 2017 and November 2018, of the two satellites Mohammed VI A. and B. This achievement as well as Morocco's initiatives through its strategic development plans indicate very clearly that our country has made space technology tools a real asset and a strategic lever within the framework of the socio-economic development of our country.**
8. **Withing this international commitment, Morocco has registered these two satellites and designed the Royal Center for Space Remote Sensing as the focal point to ensure the mission of collecting information and providing technical assistance to national activities on issues relating to the registration of objects launched into space.**

Mr. Chair,

9. **Morocco considers that cooperation with African countries is a fundamental pillar of its national strategy for the development of space activities.** In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that **Morocco was elected member of the African Space Council of “the African Space Agency” during the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union in February 2024.**
10. **Within this regional approach, Morocco will spare no efforts to keep fostering knowledge and understanding of Space law and space policy at the African Regional Center for Space Sciences and Technologies in French CRAST-LF affiliated to the UN, which is located in Rabat, offering ongoing support for these endeavors.**
11. **Similarly, as a part of Morocco’s involvement in all the activities initiated at the African level, Morocco, through the Royal Center for Space Remote Sensing, has took part in the international workshop on “African Perspectives for Advancing Space Security through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible behaviours”, organized by UNIDIR and the Secure World Foundation, on March 15th and 16th, 2023 in Nairobi**
12. **In closing, Morocco remains convinced that the multiplication and organization of events focused on jurisdiction and space policies for the benefit of all countries, especially African states, is crucial for promoting State’s adherence to the five Treaties governing outer space and for establishing a comprehensive national space law.**

Thank you

