

## STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

*Fifty-seventh Session*  
*Vienna, 3-14 February 2020*

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I take this opportunity to thank Member States for electing me for the post of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2020-2021. It is for me a great honour to assume this important function, which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor Ms. Pontsho Maruping of South Africa, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude. I would also like to warmly thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and her dedicated Team for outstanding preparations made for this session.

Distinguished Delegates,

With reference to the decision made by the General Assembly in 2019, I sincerely welcome the Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Singapore as the newest members of the Committee, which now brings the membership to 95 States. I also welcome the Moon Village Association as the newest international non-governmental organization with observer status with the Committee.

The remarkable growth in membership of the Committee over the past years is evidence of the increasing importance the international community attaches to cooperation in outer space activities. This increasingly broad participation of countries from all over the World makes this UN body truly unique and the most global intergovernmental platform dealing with space affairs.



Space activities are thriving, with the emergence of new technologies and new actors at an unprecedented rate. Space actors have become more diverse and plural than ever before. This should be taken as an encouraging sign that space applications may soon benefit more and more people around the World. It should also encourage us in our efforts in promoting international cooperation and enhancing the use of space technologies for socioeconomic development and for addressing global challenges, notably in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, the increased participation in space activities, including with an increasing role of the space industry and the private sector, is raising emerging challenges.

I am convinced that the Committee and its subcommittees have a unique responsibility to address such challenges, in particular if aiming at reinforcing their status as intergovernmental bodies playing a unique role in the global governance of space activities.

The Committee and its two subcommittees are fantastic fora for fostering dialogue, reinforcing mutual understanding among space nations and promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We must make the most of these platforms in particular to promote space science and technology and their applications, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

In 2011, the Committee set itself the goal to enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. After eight years of work on this topic, last year marked an important step towards this goal. In 2019, the Committee adopted the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as contained in Annex II to its report. At the same time it decided to establish a new working group under a five-year work-plan under the new agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The General Assembly in its resolution 74/82 welcomed with appreciation the adoption of this double decision. It further noted that the Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, and emphasized that the Committee served as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the guidelines.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Subcommittee has a special and essential task to consider many other areas of space science and technology and their applications. In this context and in accordance with previous decisions by the Committee, I would like to recall the different working groups to be reconvened during this session:

- The **Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Activities** will continue its work;

- The **Working Group of the Whole of the Subcommittee** will continue its consideration on space technology for socioeconomic development and possibly other matters, such as the method of work of the Committee;

- The **Working Group on Space and Global Health** will start its substantive considerations under the workplan established last year;

- After the election of its Bureau, the newly established **Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** shall develop and adopt during this session its terms of reference, methods of work and work-plan;

- The **Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda** established under a corresponding agenda item of the Main Committee will pursue its deliberation towards the finalisation and the adoption of a “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan during the upcoming session of the Committee in June.

- Furthermore, the dedicated **Expert Group on Space Weather** is mandated to continue the work under its workplan.

I further note the continued work successfully carried out by the three international bodies whose establishment was facilitated by the Committee:

- the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG),
- the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and, concerning asteroids as well,
- the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG).

In 2019, the Committee decided that the agenda item on the future role and method of work of the Committee be scheduled in plenary of both Subcommittees. Discussions on the governance and methods of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies began informally several years ago. They are an important endeavour for our intergovernmental bodies in terms of efficiency, organizational strength and overall synergy gains. I would like to remind you of the document A/AC.105/C.1/L.384 that has been issued by the Secretariat and I look forward to working with all of you as we move forward in this area.

Distinguished Delegates,

The interrelationship between major space-faring nations and emerging space nations, increased international cooperation, and capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing countries, have laid the groundwork for progress over the years. Furthering international cooperation among all space actors including partnerships among States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities will be key in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries.

In this regard, the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/82, emphasised the importance of regional and interregional cooperation. The Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations, have firmly established infrastructure for advanced training in the field of space science and technology. Their long-standing education programmes are highly successful, including building upon the set of scientific and space law curricula developed through the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Distinguished Delegates,

Many achievements in the area of space exploration and research have been made since our last session in 2019. Space research and exploration are long-term innovation drivers that open up new

opportunities to address global challenges. While at the present time not all States have the capacity to join in space exploration or the development of space science and technology, it should be our aim to enhance the sharing of benefits of space science and technology in achieving our commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Distinguished Delegates,

In carrying out my duties, I look forward to working with all of you to achieve the objectives and mandate given by the United Nations General Assembly. Whether in advancing the “Space2030” agenda, which is to be finalized and adopted this year, or in starting the work of the new Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, delegations will need to show flexibility to enable consensus to be reached and progress to be made. We are gathered here as representatives of Member States of the United Nations. World citizens have high expectations of the United Nations. I firmly believe that it is our duty to help this Organization to provide solutions to global challenges, sustainable development and socio-economic development. We owe it to the generations that follow us, our children’s and grandchildren’s generations. In order to do so, our work must be efficient and our objectives ambitious. I will not give up my efforts to facilitate dialogue and help to find consensus between the different States members of the Committee.

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me now to address a few more personal words to you. As I stand before you today, I cannot help but think of those who opened the doors that brought me here. Some of them are sitting or have been sitting in this room. I owe them a lot and, secretly, am very grateful. Also, I would like to say to the youngest among us sitting here today, that they must believe in the causes they stand for, be patient and not let up in their efforts. It will be your way of making an impact to make the World a better place, and the doors will open in front of you.

Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you.

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