

**ISNET's Statement at the 57th Session of the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee
(STSC) of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
(UNCOPUOS); 3 - 14 Feb 2020 Vienna, Austria**

Agenda Item No. 04: General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates, representatives,

On behalf of ISNET, it is my honour to address this fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

First of all, I would like to extend our felicitations to you on assuming the chairpersonship of this session. I would also like to convey our gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and her dedicated team from Secretariat for the outstanding preparations made for this session.

Madam Chair,

Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET) is an inter-state, non-political and non-profit self governing agency having international legal status. ISNET was formed in September 1987 as one of the six Inter-Islamic Networks under the umbrella of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). The Network is mandated to promote space sciences, space technology and applications for peaceful purposes in OIC member countries and to foster meaningful international cooperation amongst them. At present, ISNET has a membership of 17 countries, which includes Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Madam Chair,

It is my pleasure to inform you about the activities conducted by ISNET since the fifty-sixth session of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee COPUOS on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Madam Chair,

ISNET being the permanent observer of UNCOPUOS is highly appreciative of efforts undertaken by it for promoting activities under seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50. ISNET is a member of Action Team established in 2016 under UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 01 i.e. Global partnership in space exploration and innovation. Based on this commitment ISNET carried out different capacity building

ISNET has been exceptionally active at various fronts during the year 2019. To make ISNET more effective, dynamic and beneficial for its member states this year ISNET enhanced its scope and in addition to its capacity building activities, took an initiative to introduce technical projects related to space science and technology. ISNET is of the view that it is important to gather stakeholders support for attaining the objectives of space technology programs and their sustainable development. With the aim to explore and utilize the potential of space applications and its benefits to society, ISNET's governing body approved 12 x technical projects during its 12th Governing Body Meeting held in Amman, Jordan on 26 Mar 2019. These projects involve activities related to cooperation in the design of remote sensing satellites for observation, crop estimation, disaster management, rescue at sea and weather prediction. The projects encourage use of space technology towards achieving socio-economic development goals. The projects shall be

Madam Chair,

Member countries.

Training Course on Land Information System through Remote Sensing and GIS. The course was arranged at Karachi, Pakistan in Dec 2019 and was attended by officials of 4

Moreover, ISNET provided its member countries an opportunity to participate in science and Engineering.

collaboration and evaluate latest technology and developments in the field of Aerospace countries and provided a beneficial forum to share experiences, foster academia-industry 2019 at Islamabad, Pakistan. The conference was attended by experts from 17 x different International Conference on Aerospace Science and Engineering (ICASE) held in Nov ISNET also co-sponsored participants from its member countries for Sixth

field and provided a good platform for discussions and deliberations.

training and conference both proved to be fundamental in creating understanding in this sponsored a training and conference in space law and policy at Istanbul, Turkey. The technology and applications. Realising this fact, in Sep 2019, ISNET for the first time co-Space Law and Policy is an emerging field in the domain of space sciences,

Partnership in Space Exploration and Innovation held in March 2019 at Amman, Jordan. that ISNET sponsored 7 participants at UNOOSA/Jordan Workshop on Global benefits of modern space science and technology. In this regard, I would like to mention well as organizations. There is a need to develop human resources to gain optimum activities throughout the year 2019 to promote cooperation among different countries as

able to contribute towards thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50 and achieve Sustainable Development Goals specially focusing on SDG No. 3 “Good Health and Well Being”; SDG No. 6, Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG No. 13, Climate Action and SDG No.17, Global Partnerships. Some of the major projects are:-

- a. Land Change Modeling based on Satellite Remote Sensing
- b. Satellite Remote Sensing based Land Degradation Mapping
- c. Develop Land Use and Land Cover (LCCS) for ISNET Countries
- d. Satellite Remote Sensing Based Water Resource Mapping
- e. Spatial Crops monitoring For Decision Support to Regional Food Security And Agriculture Trade Balance

Madam Chair,

ISNET acknowledges the significance of the role of UNCOPOUS and realizes the significant role of UNCOPUOS in facilitating international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We would like to assure you of ISNET’s support to this Committee and to UNOOSA in capacity-building of its member States.

We believe that ISNET’s partnership with UN-COPUOS will prove mutually beneficial and go a long way in ensuring that space-derived benefits reach member countries of the OIC.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates, I thank you all.

