

Agenda Item (5): UN Programme on Space Application
Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee of UN COPUOS
Vienna, 10, February 2020

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

More urgently than anytime in the past, COPUOS member states are looking for integrated, inclusive and innovative policies and measures to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Following the adoption of the UNISPACE+50 resolution at the UN General Assembly in 2018, we have just taken the first step towards the achievement of the resolution this year. I am pleased that the Working Group on a “Space 2030 Agenda” provides such a timely opportunity for the member states to discuss how to take a whole-of-government approach towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam Chair,

The Republic of Korea supports the diverse UN Space application programs as we believe that those will promote the use of space technology and contribute to the economic and societal advancement of mankind. The Republic of Korea recognizes the unique and continuous contribution made by the United Nations Program on Space Applications in promoting and assisting the capacity building activities by Member States, in particular, of

emerging spacefaring nations. In this regard, my government acknowledges that the instrumental role played by the Office of Outer Space Affairs in implementing this program needs to be strengthened.

The Republic of Korea seeks to contribute to the capacity building activities by sharing our knowledge, skills, and lessons learned in the development and application of space technology. Particularly, I would like to introduce key capacity building program, 'KARI International Space Training' or KARIST. It is an annual training program carried out by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) since 2010.

This two-week long course has been attended mostly by young professionals from emerging spacefaring nations. In the past ten years, 245 trainees from 34 countries participated in this program.

In 2019, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of KARIST, a special joint education session with UNOOSA was organized as part of the program. This joint session was conducted under the theme of "space applications for disaster management." UNOOSA staff and experts who were invited through the UN-SPIDER network provided lectures on space technology for disaster management and on international mechanisms for supporting emergency response. The joint session also included hands-on activities using data from KOMPSAT, the Korean remote sensing satellite series, and other satellites.

The trainees were very much satisfied with the session and hoped for continued cooperation between KARIST and UNOOSA in strengthening capacity-building and education in the space sector.

UNOOSA staff and experts also attended the 10th anniversary ceremony of KARIST at the end of the training program and shared the experience with more than 100 participants, which include this year's trainees from 20 countries, alumni, policy makers, industry sectors, academies, as well as KARI researchers. And Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of UNOOSA, also sent a congratulatory video message, which made the ceremony even more meaningful. Taking this opportunity, the Republic of Korea would like to express the deepest appreciation to UNOOSA and all the participating countries for their cooperation and contribution to KARIST.

The 11th KARIST, which is scheduled to take place at the end of June this year, will also include a course jointly conducted with UNOOSA in order to further Korea's contribution to capacity-building and education for the UN Space Applications program as well as the Space 2030 Agenda.

Thank you, Madam Chair /END/