

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor

On behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, I am honored to address the Fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in my capacity as the Director of the Israel Space Agency.

Our special appreciation to UNOOSA Director, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and to the Chair of COPUOS STCS, Dr. Natalia Archinard, for their leadership and vision.

In this statement I will concentrate on the Israeli activity in the past year.

Madam Chair,

Since our last gathering, Israel and the entire world have been struck by the global COVID-19 pandemic. A pandemic that challenged all walks of life, in all sectors including the space eco-system. I am happy to share today that through creativity, adoption of new technology that enables remote cooperation and the support of our international partners, ISA was able to meet all of its goals for the year with the exception of in person conferences.

Madam Chair,

Only last month Israel launched two scientific missions to space, thus culminating years of preparation. The Technion's Asher Space Research Institute in Haifa Adelis-SAMSON nanosatellite project that will demonstrate autonomous formation flight of 3 6 U nanosatellite as well as geo-location capabilities. In addition Tel Aviv University launched Nanosatellite for monitoring space weather at Low earth altitude orbit

As I mentioned earlier this has also been a fruitful year with respect to bilateral and multilateral programs.

Earlier in 2020 ISA and the Italian Space Agency have successfully launched the DIDO-3 satellite to conduct experiments in micro-gravity environment.

Furthermore, the SHALOM mission, also in close cooperation with the Italian Space Agency, has completed its phase-A and is the most advanced hyperspectral mission currently being planned. We hope to launch its full-scale development shortly.

In addition, the ULTRASAT mission that was launched last year in cooperation with the DESY institute from Helmholtz Germany and NASA will finish its preliminary design review in Q3 2021 and planned to be launched in 2024. ULTRASAT is a groundbreaking transient UV mission with a multinational cooperation scheme. This

satellite aims to explore UV Transient phenomena especially those created by post effects of gravitational waves and supernovas. We are in advance phases of including additional international members in the program to create a global scientific impact.

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates,

In November 2020 ISA and the Ramon Foundation have launched the groundbreaking RAKIA mission, which combines educational, commercial and scientific experiments onboard the AX-1 mission, the inaugural private astronaut mission.

In this mission ISA is working together with the Ramon Foundation to leverage private astronaut missions for the public's greater good. Mr. Eytan Stibbe, an Israeli citizen and the first private astronaut to ever visit the International Space Station, has decided to dedicate his time onboard the ISS to promote science, technology and education. ISA and the Ramon Foundation have launched a call for proposals to conduct scientific and engineering experiments.

Since this is a new and emerging type of activity, ISA will work in coordination with NASA on different aspects of the mission.

Madam Chair, ISA and the Ramon Foundation plan to share all of the educational materials from the mission with COUPOS and make them available for every child

on earth on a non-discriminatory basis, in accordance with the UN values.

Madam Chair,

Israel has launched another groundbreaking technological & educational mission during 2020: Beresheet-2.

After Beresheet-1's success in 2019 of capturing the moon's orbit and reaching its surface). ISA and SpaceIL foundation have launched Beresheet-2 during December 2020.

Beresheet-2 entails a more challenging mission from Beresheet-1 and includes a spacecraft combined of one orbiter and two landers simultaneously reaching the moon's surface. Israel supports SpaceIL's vision to inspire youth around the world and encourage them to pursue ambitious dreams. This is why in Beresheet-2 Israel is not only going back to the moon but raising the bar higher.

Another emphasis in Beresheet-2 is the opportunity that it provides for international cooperation. In the framework of the mission, Israel plans to cooperate with other States and organizations on the design, engineering and primarily on the educational mission and have the landing event as a significant moment that would unite people, and specifically children, from all over the world.

Madam Chair,

Israel wishes to reiterate its appreciation of COPUOS and UNOOSA as the appropriate forum for all matters related to peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space.

At the same time, Israel attaches great importance to bilateral relations and collaborations. Israel continues to cultivate bilateral dialogues and cooperation with various states. In this context, we would like to mention the recent normalization of relations between Israel and COPUOS members, the UAE and Bahrain. ISA is having working groups with the UAESA to create the ground for long term cooperation and to find the mutual interest for both countries. We are looking forward for the fruitful outcomes of these partnerships, including in space-related matters.

Additionally, ISA continues its cooperation with other space agencies, including the ongoing cooperation with NASA, ESA, ASI, CNES DLR and others. Moreover, we are initiating technological cooperation with the Indian Space Research Organization ISRO, and we are continuously exploring more cooperation opportunities.

Madam Chair,

In November 2020, Israel was supposed to host the Mars Analog mission in Israel, performed by the Austrian forum. Unfortunately, this is one of the activities that were postponed due to COVID, but we intend to complete it during November of 2021.

Madam Chair

Israel is pleased to inform of its intention to increase its involvement in COPUOS subcommittees such as International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) SMPAG global health in order to assist its highly important activities and support the work of the COPUOS.

Madam Chair

I would like to wish yourself, COPUOS and all of the Member States that we overcome the COVID-19 pandemic soon , and that we can reconvene in person again. Our hearts and minds are with those fighting the pandemic at the front lines across the globe.

Thank you for your kind attention.