

## STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR

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

*Fifty-ninth Session*  
*Vienna, 7-18 February 2022*

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I take this opportunity to thank States members of the Committee for electing me for the post of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2022-2023, and for the confidence that you have placed in me in furthering the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

I am honoured to assume this important function, which was successfully fulfilled by my predecessor Ms. Natália Archinard of Switzerland, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.

I would also like to express my appreciation to 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 General Assembly Resolution of 2021, I sincerely welcome Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as the newest members of the Committee. With this, the membership of the Committee now crosses the milestone mark of historical importance of 100 States.

I also welcome the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory and the Open Lunar Foundation as the newest international organizations with observer status with the Committee.

The phenomenal growth in membership of the Committee over the past years illustrates the commitment and dedication of the international community to cooperation in outer space activities. This increasingly broad participation of countries from across all continents makes this United Nations body a unique multilateral forum for fostering dialogue and cooperation dealing with space affairs.

Distinguished Delegates,

Space activities are broadening, and we witness the emergence of new technologies and new actors. Space actors have become more diverse and plural than ever before. Space technologies have

become irreplaceable in common life. Cooperation and advancements in outer space are gaining prominence on the political agenda of governments and international organizations. All of these - the increased participation in space activities, an increasing role of the space industry and the private sector, and the critical dependency of our civilization on space systems - are raising emerging challenges in outer space activities.

At the same time, the surge of innovations driven by space science creates new opportunities and inspires present and future generation of scientist and engineers. Space science also encourages economies to intensify activities in the space sector and promotes the sharing of global information and communication between researchers and policymakers. As an engine to progress and socioeconomic development, space science provides life-saving benefits that contribute to global development and prosperity.

Therefore, it is now more important than ever that we step up our efforts in promoting international cooperation and enhanced use of space science and technologies for addressing global challenges. I am convinced that this Subcommittee, along with the Committee and the Legal Subcommittee, have a unique responsibility to deliver solutions to such challenges, in particular if aiming at preserving and reinforcing their status as unique intergovernmental bodies playing a key role in the global governance of space activities.

The Committee and its two subcommittees are preeminent fora for fostering dialogue, reinforcing mutual understanding among nations and promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. They thrive to maximizing the benefits of space science and technology and their applications, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.

The “Space2030” Agenda, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/3 of 25 October 2021, offers multiple avenues in strengthening our common endeavours for space as a driver of sustainable development.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Subcommittee has a special and important task to consider many 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 of the Whole of the Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Activities, and the Working Group on Space and Global Health will continue their substantive considerations at this session. The newly established Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will, during this session, continue and hopefully finalize its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan.

Furthermore, the dedicated Expert Group on Space Weather will submit its draft final report for the consideration of the Subcommittee at this session.

I also note with appreciation the continued work carried out by the three international bodies whose establishment was facilitated by the Subcommittee, namely the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) and the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN).

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 success over the years. Furthering international coordination and 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 76/76 of 9 December 2021, emphasizes 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,

Just two years ago, no one expected the COVID-19 pandemic to emerge and extend to its current scale. And in that connection, I would like to underscore the contribution of space actors and industrial players capabilities to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis management and relief by means of satellite infrastructures and specific technology.

Space applications as telecommunications, observation, positioning and navigation, tele-transmission and remote control are substantially facilitating the present economic and societal challenges given by the pandemic. It should therefore be our aim to share the benefits of space science and technology in achieving our commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives,

In conclusion, I am determined, as the Chair of the Subcommittee to work with all of you to ensure that we continue making measurable progress in our work. I look forward to a highly productive session and wish us all the best of success.

Thank you.

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