APSCO, Item 4

Statement of APSCO

The 59th Session of the Scientific-Technical Sub-Committee

of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

(COPUOS)

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), I appreciate the opportunity today to report an update on the Organization's work in the past year, in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair,

In November 2021, the 15th Council Meeting of APSCO approved the 5-Year Project Implementation Plan drafted by the APSCO Development Plan Committee. This Plan will support realization of the 10-Year Strategic Plan approved earlier in 2020, where projects and activities focus on enhancing capability of our Members in peaceful uses of outer space, in the domains of space science, space technology development and space technology applications. Our key strategy is on taking advantage of the wide coverage area of the Asia-Pacific to enhance benefits of APSCO Members in the region. Networking of facilities and knowledge sharing in Space Science, Technology and Applications, as well as Space Education, Training and Capacity Building are emphasized in the APSCO Project Implementation Plan.

Mr. Chair,

As a basic facility for sharing and promoting application of satellite remote sensing, the APSCO Data Sharing Service Platform (DSSP) has been upgraded and equipped with more powerful tools, so that it can provide larger volume and wider range of space-based information. Through 35 Certified Users in all APSCO Member States, the Platform can serve in more extensive and responsive manner. As a part of the Platform promotion campaign, 8 DSSP Application Projects from all Member States have been kicked off in 2021. They cover the topics on Satellite Imagery Search Engine, Flood Monitoring and Warning System, Forest Cover for the Evaluation of Amazonian Ecosystem, Mangrove Watch, Air Pollution Assessment, Wildfire Monitoring, and

Crop Acreages Assessment.

Under the 'Framework for Researches on Application of Space Technology for Disaster Monitoring in the APSCO Member States Project' there are 15 Joint Research Projects on Flood, Landslide/Avalanches, Drought and Multi-Hazard adopted for implementation by the research teams from APSCO Countries. These framework cells will also support the APSCO Charter Mechanism for Disaster Monitoring and Mitigation, planned to kickoff in 2022.

Under the Domain of Space Science, the network of "Asia-Pacific Space Science Observatories (APSSO) is now in operation. The first joint observation was conducted in January, 2022 focusing on tracking of the NEO 1994 PC1. At the meantime, installation of optical telescopes with enhanced performance for space object tracking, and distributed data processing centers in all APSCO Member States is now undergoing.

Meanwhile, a number of networks have been well established and made available for our Members, such as,

- APSCO GNSS Monitoring and Assessment Service Network
- APSCO Network for Ionosphere Modeling through Study of Radio Wave Propagation
- APSCO Seismo-Ionospheric Observation and Application Platform (SOAP) for Integrating Satellite and Ground Observations for Earthquake Signatures and Precursors Monitoring.

In deep space exploration, APSCO is forming an international cooperation, under the leadership of China National Space Administration (CNSA), to launch scientific payload aboard Change'E-6, a lunar sample return mission. The mission, planned to be launched in April-June 2024, is aiming at improving technology, sharing achievements, contributing wisdom to scientific exploration, under the win-win cooperation basis.

Mr. Chair,

APSCO has continued its capacity-building endeavor in Space Education and Training, and has adopted diverse online platforms to offer short training courses and to provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge, particularly during the pandemic situation. In the year 2021, 8 training activities, including 5 distant trainings, 3 short trainings, 1 project-related training, and 1 promotion event for APSCO Education & Training, have been successfully conducted. Around 700 participants from more than 16 countries benefited from these activities.

Furthermore, the process for enrollment of degree education program with leading universities in China, namely, Beihang University, Northern Polytechnique University, and Harbin Institute of Technology, has been well coordinated. In 2021, there are totally 9 Master and 11 Ph.D. students recruited with full scholarship provided, under APSCO's Degree Education Program for Space Technology and Application (MASTA

&DOCSTA).

For hands-on training, APSCO has successfully launched two satellites under the Student Small Satellite (SSS) Project, in October, 2021. This marks an outstanding achievement for university cooperation and capacity-building, as well as a corner-stone for future multi-lateral cooperation under APSCO platform. The details of this program will be presented as a technical presentation at the 59th Session of STSC.

Finally, in the light of APSCO's vision on promoting space capacity building among young generation, APSCO is organizing a Symposium, under its outreaching theme "Space Popularization for Next Generation", which will be held, Virtually, as a side-event of the 59th Session of STSC, on 15th February, 1300-1515 CET. Everyone is welcomed to participate.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO and its Members are strongly committed to support the work of COPUOS. We are also open for cooperation with all nations in keeping outer space available for peaceful activities, and improve capabilities to use space for socio-economic development, especially to those developing countries.

Thank You.