

India

Agenda Item - 4

General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, the Indian delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of STSC and assures its wholehearted cooperation and support in conducting this session. We place on record our sincere appreciations to the outgoing Chair of STSC for effectively chairing the sub-committee during these difficult pandemic times. We appreciate UNOOSA for its continued efforts in enabling efficient functioning of COPUOS and its sub-committees despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian Space Programme, which was built on the core objective of 'exploiting the space based applications for national development and governance' has continued its success story over the years, enhancing the capabilities across launch vehicles, satellites and space applications for meeting the needs of the nation. With recent space reforms by opening space sector for private sector participation, the country has found a new momentum with private entities foraying into space activities.

India's current space assets include its fleet of earth observation satellites, communication satellites, NavIC - the regional navigation constellation of satellites and space science satellites. The satellite based data is increasingly used in India by various government ministries and organizations to address various challenges related to agriculture, urban planning, disaster management, climate change, fishing, weather forecasting, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

The operating Indian scientific missions, namely, Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter, Mars Orbiter and dedicated space observatory Astrosat, continue to provide valuable scientific data. The preparations for the third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 and the first space based solar mission Aditya-L1, are progressing well.

Indian maiden human spaceflight project Gaganyaan made good progress both in terms of crew training and crew transportation system development.

Mr. Chairman,

Currently, India has formal cooperation agreements with 60 countries and 5 international agencies with addition of Colombia as the new partner in 2021. Among the cooperative projects, Human Spaceflight support projects with Roscosmos and CNES, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, ISRO-JAXA Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPLEX) mission and joint satellite mission with Bhutan progressed well.

India continues to engage actively with developing nations for sharing its experience in using outer space for peaceful uses. On the capacity building front, ISRO has provided training on space technology applications to 3420 officials till date from 109 countries, through UN Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (UN-CSSTEAP) and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS).

Mr. Chairman,

India implements the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) guidelines and other international instruments like space debris mitigation guidelines, transparency and confidence building measures in its space activities to the extent possible. India is committed to play a significant role in ensuring long-term sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities for the benefit of the humankind.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and all the distinguished delegates.