Statement of the Delegation of
the Islamic Republic of Iran
59th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space,
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Agenda item 4: General Exchange of View
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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS. I want to assure delegation's full support to you in your demanding task, we also appreciate Ms.Natalia Archinard for her professional conduct of the STSC in last three years. I would like to further take this opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and her team for the excellent preparations made for this session. We wish Madam Di Pippo all the best for her new academic life.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also aligns itself with the statement of Group of 77 and China and I would like to add the followings on my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and re-emphasizes on the following principles: universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, the non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; responsibility of States for their national space activities carried out by both governmental and non -governmental entities; the non-

militarization of outer space; the prevention of the installation of weapons of any kind in outer space; the strict use of outer space, as the common heritage of humankind for peaceful purposes; and international cooperation in the development of space activities, in particular those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The Office for Outer Space Affairs is in a unique position to bring all relevant stakeholders together to ensure that the advantages of space for the benefit of humankind will be brought to everyone, everywhere. In this vein, it is necessary to further support the exchange of information, research and technology and international cooperation within the Committee, in order to fill the gap between spacefaring nations that had made great progress in the development in space sector and non-spacefaring that are working to strengthen their capabilities.

Last year, the Islamic Republic of Iran, held a variety of programs during World Space Week 2021, which was dedicated to the theme "Woman in Space". The activities of the country for this year's World Space Week with 235 events are available at worldspaceweek.org.

New challenges arising and posing from the development of space technologies, such as the exploration and utilization of space resource, placement of mega constellations in low Earth Orbit, close proximity operations, space debris remediation and the legally in-situ contests and regulatory inconsistencies, must be addressed with priority in the Committee on a multilateral basis considering equitable access to the benefits of space for developing countries.

The rapid development of mega-constellations by private companies in terms of consistency of their plans and projects with Space Law as well as technical

dimensions is a matter of great concern for States in particular for developing countries. Such an increase in the number of satellites will lead to Radio Frequency spectrum congestion that may result in unintentional radio frequency interference (RFI). Even at present, some orbits are crowded enough so that for safety reasons conjunction assessments and accurate injection procedures would be required for new satellite going to be placed in those specific orbits which could be too complicated for new entrants. This will severely hamper and prevent developing countries from self-supporting access to space and ultimately would result in monopolization of space by a few countries and their private companies to largely utilize outer space merely in line with their goals and intentions.

The risk of impinging upon national sovereignty and risk of interference and regulatory inconsistencies and infringements would be substantial without proper regulations. While many companies have declared that their goal is to offer users satellite internet access , issuing licenses by different countries under coverage of such global internet connection shall be subject to meet certain conditions including inter-alia respect for national sovereignty and national laws and regulations of States such as the territorial sovereign right of regulating satellite internet services namely "landing right" which has to be abide by, in accordance with Article VI of the OST 1967, in which the States shall bear the responsibility for national activities in outer space that such national activities are carried out in conformity with space law. This very fundamental issue has to be addressed by COPUOS and ITU.

Some space faring nations by huge investment on the application of mega constellations with possibility of dual function (military and non-military), are intending to create a new global space based governance of global communications. They are threatening the sovereignty and security of independent developing countries over their own territorial integrity communications with outside world, apparently in the name of protection of human right, freedom of expression and peaceful objectives

to cover internet connection for large number of the world populations that have no access to World Wide Web. The placement of such large number of dual use mega constellations in low earth orbit is matter of concerns for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Chair,

Notwithstanding the illegal unilateral restrictions, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its peaceful use and exploration of outer space as an essential priority for our country and is resolute to develop its own satellite launch capabilities. We have successfully been able to test our indigenous space launch engine capable of thrust vector control, which will pave the way for the use of lightweight and efficient engines for launching satellites to space.

I thank you Mr. Chair.