

**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: 2022**  
**On the Occasion of its Fifty-ninth session (7-18 February 2022)**

**General Exchange of Views by Uri Oron, Director General of the Israel Space Agency, Wednesday 9 February, Afternoon Session**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Recognizing the importance of this unique platform and our shared aim to increase international cooperation on space activities, I am happy and honored to introduce some of the work that has been taking place at the Israel Space Agency and in the Israel space sector.

**International Space Week**

- Just two weeks ago we celebrated Israel Space Week, with hundreds of thousands of participants from Israel and around the world. Israel has its own space legacy, and it is constantly growing.
- As part of space week, we hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> International Ramon Space conference.
- Started in memory of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, Ilan's memory continues to inspire thousands.
- Space is for everyone - children, families, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and industry representatives (start-ups to giants).

- It is our responsibility, and our privilege, to embrace as many stakeholders as we can and include them in this new and expanding realm of space. The conversation is inclusive and is meant to create opportunities for as many people as possible to find their voice and contribution in it.

### Innovation, Technology and New Space

- Israeli space capabilities nowadays extend from launching satellites to space science and technology and their day-to-day applications - much of it propelled by private initiatives.
- In this new space environment, the Israeli government has an important role as facilitator and enabler for the private sector.
- Recently, the Israel Space Agency, along with the Israel Innovation Authority has approved a grant of NIS 18.5 million (\$5.94) for 11 companies, to encourage innovation in the space sector, and to promote growth of existing endeavors.

### Space Science

- The ULTRASAT project, which was launched last year in cooperation with the Weizmann Institute of Science, and in collaboration with NASA (provider of the launcher) and the DESY institute from Helmholtz Germany, is gradually progressing, and is planned to launch in 2024. ULTRASAT is a state-of-the-art GEO scientific telescope to observe deep space in the ultra-violet (UV) spectrum, with a built-in international cooperation scheme. This satellite aims to explore UV Transient phenomena especially those created by post effects of gravitational waves and supernovas.

- BERESHEET 2 (GENESIS) is a unique lunar mission planned by SpacEL, a non-profit organization aimed to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and dreamers. The Beresheet 2 mission follows its predecessor, Beresheet 1 – the world's first private lunar mission ever performed. The project aims to land a three-spacecraft system comprised of one mothership carrying two Landers on the Moon. Upon arrival and capture by the Moon, the landers will be released to land on the moon surface, for scientific exploration mission. The Orbiter will continue to orbit the moon for up to 5 years and will serve as a scientific & educational tool for many school children and students all over the world. The Israel Space Agency proudly supports SpacEL and invites nations to collaborate with Israel in this journey.

### International Cooperation

- Israel is proud to take part in the ambitious and important ARTEMIS MISSION, led by NASA, as part of the Matroshka AstroRad Radiation Experiment (MARE), an international effort including the German Aerospace Center, the Israel Space Agency and NASA. A manikin will wear a radiation protection vest called AstroRad, developed by an Israeli company, onboard the Orion as part of the Artemis I Mission later this spring.
- Most recently, Israel also joined the ARTEMIS ACCORDS, an important step in international cooperation and creating a shared and common ground for future space exploration.
- In October 2021 Israel signed an MOU with THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES on cooperation on space issues, promoting important ties and collaborative projects between both countries' space agencies.

### HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION

- I am excited to share that in March 2022 a second Israeli will be launched to the International Space Station as part of the AX1 MISSION (RAKIA, or heavens, in Hebrew). The mission will be dedicated to execute over 30 groundbreaking scientific experiments. Successful completion could support our knowledge and understanding of the physical experiences of astronauts in space and improve our daily lives on Earth.

#### Education and youth:

- TEVEL - 8 nano satellites, built by some 250 outstanding Israeli high school students, were launched into space aboard a Space X rocket. Participants included youth from Israel's geographic and social periphery, Jewish and Arab teenagers celebrating their scientific achievements together. The Israel Space Agency invests in educational programs all year round, bringing space and science closer to youth, wherever they live, and regardless of their background.

I would like to wish the distinguished delegates of COPUOS participating, near and far, a fruitful and successful session. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming years.

Thank you for your kind attention.