



**STATEMENT BY HILLARY BIWOTT KIPKOSGEY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL KENYA SPACE AGENCY, DELIVERED TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

---

**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

Allow me to begin by congratulating you **Dr. Juan Francisco Facetti** on your election as the Chairman of this Subcommittee. I also wish to thank you for your able chairing of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assure you of my delegation's full support.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, **Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo**, and the Secretariat, for their commitment and tireless efforts in organizing for this meeting amidst challenging times occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Kenya welcomes Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as new members of the COPUOS and appreciates the granting of permanent observer status to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and the Square Kilometre Array Observatory.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the Africa Group and by the Group of 77 and China, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. Kenya supports the effort of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and in particular he **sustainable space utilization** geared towards supporting sustainable development; and **space debris mitigation** which targets to reduce risks to long-term sustainability of space activities, **safety of space operations** by providing space weather data and forecasts, developing space weather models and tools on mitigation of space weather effects and addressing the risks of re-entry of space objects. Kenya further seeks to build capacity in **policy and regulatory framework for space activities** to develop and implement national space legislation.



## **Agenda 4 – KENYA**

*Check Against Delivery*

My delegation assures you of our support and participation in the activities of the Working Group.

### **Mr. Chairman,**

2. As a developing and aspiring nation in the space sector, Kenya acknowledges the need to build capacity for development of national space legislation and effective regulatory frameworks for management and coordination of commercial space activities by state and non-state actors within State jurisdictions.

3. Kenya appreciates the role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries. I am happy to report that Kenyan institutions have greatly benefitted from the following “Access to Space for All” joint initiatives.

a. Under the Satellite Development Track on CubeSat Deployment from the International Space Station (ISS) Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) "KiboCUBE", the University of Nairobi was selected to deploy the 1<sup>st</sup> Kenya University Nanosatellite – Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF) CubeSat in May 2018. The satellite has since deorbited.

b. Under the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track, Kenyan institutions have been able to benefit from both the United Nations/China Cooperation on the Utilization of the China Space Station programme and the joint initiative with Airbus Defence and Space, and Space GmbH to accommodate a payload on the Airbus Bartolomeo external platform on the International Space Station. The collaborative project "BARIDI SANA - High-Performance Micro 2-Phase Cooling System for Space Applications" implemented by the Sapienza University of Rome in Italy, In Quattro s.r.l. in Italy, and the Machakos University in Kenya will be tested onboard China's Space Station, while the collaborative project “Egypt Kenya Uganda Climate Camera (EKU ClimCam) – an imaging system to monitor a series of problems caused by Climate Change” implemented by the Egyptian Space Agency, the Kenya Space Agency and the Uganda National Space Programme will be hosted on the Airbus Bartolomeo external platform on the International Space Station.



## **Agenda 4 – KENYA**

*Check Against Delivery*

c. Under the Space Exploration Track, the Kenyan Space Observation and Research Telescope (K-SORT Project), led by Kenya Space Agency in partnership with the University of Nairobi, Pwani University and the National Museums of Kenya, was awarded a telescope through the ISONscope programme, a joint cooperation programme under the International Scientific Optical Network (ISON), for the provision of small telescopes to academic and research institutions in developing countries. This opportunity also offers assistance for the establishment of the telescope-related facilities and training of specialists on the use of the telescope. The K-SORT Project aims at monitoring space debris, space weather events and Near-Earth Objects, and also hopes to promote and support space science research and outreach in Kenya.

### **Mr. Chairman**

4. These collaborative initiatives truly demonstrate the contribution of international cooperation towards capacity building in developing nations. We therefore appreciate and celebrate the important role of the partnering institutions and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in making the objectives of “Space 2030” Agenda a reality.

5. As I conclude, I wish to encourage African states to also embrace the joint pursuit of accessing space for sustainable development through regional initiatives. An initial step as the African Space Agency is becoming operational, is the African Development Satellite initiative where Egypt, Ghana, Kenya Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda are implementing a joint project to build in-country capacity in space systems engineering and space operations through development of a small satellite.

6. **Mr. Chairman**, I reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**