

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the  
59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the  
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
7-18 February 2022**

**Agenda Item No. 4. General Exchange of Views**

**Mr. Chair,**

We would like to convey our sincere felicitations to you upon assuming the chairpersonship of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of this subcommittee and assure you of our full support and cooperation for a very productive session.

We also join other delegations in thanking the Secretariat for organizing this Session in the midst of difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also welcome new member of the COPUOS<sup>1</sup>. Growing membership of the Committee is recognition of the important role that this forum continues to play in promoting international cooperation on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

**Mr. Chair,**

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Morocco. We have the following remarks to make in our national capacity.

We reaffirm our belief that space is the common heritage of humankind and is not subject to national appropriation by claims of sovereignty. It should be used for peaceful purposes and should remain accessible to all nations on non-discriminatory basis, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical or economic development. In accordance with this belief, Pakistan has ratified all five United Nations space treaties governing the peaceful uses and long term sustainability of outer space.

**Mr. Chair,**

As a space emerging nation, the prime focus of Pakistan's national space program is the pursuit of sustainable socio-economic progress. At present, Pakistan has three operational satellites in space, including one communication satellite and two remote sensing satellites. The data acquired through these satellites is being used in diverse fields such as urban planning, transport, water resource management, agriculture, public health,

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<sup>1</sup> Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia

disaster management, as well as for monitoring environmental pollution and climate change.

Mr. Chair,

The Space 2030 Agenda provides the framework to use space as a driver for sustainable development. The UN Secretary General's report "Our Common Agenda" also acknowledges the importance of peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space as being vital for understanding and solving global problems, such as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action. However, the potential of space as a driver for sustainable development cannot be realized unless the issue of space divide, which not only persists but continues to widen, is effectively addressed. Developing countries continue to face considerable technical and financial hurdles that prevent them from fully benefitting from space technologies. Robust international cooperation for capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer are of vital importance to ensure that developing nations can meaningfully enjoy their rights in the exploration, access and use of outer space for sustainable development.

**Mr. Chair,**

Long term sustainability of outer space activities is of the utmost importance to ensure the availability of outer space for developing nations as well as future generations. Implementation of the voluntary LTS guidelines agreed in 2019 is of particular importance in this context. We hope that the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability will further build on the progress already achieved while keeping in view the particular needs and concerns of developing countries. We reiterate that the evolving framework on long term sustainability of outer space activities must not impose undue and unreasonably high standards and obligations which might be prejudicial to the interests of developing and space emerging countries.

**Mr. Chair,**

Mitigating the problem of space debris is of fundamental importance to the long term sustainability of outer space activities. In this context, the launching of large and mega constellations and their implications for further congestion in space, increased risks of collision and creation of debris are issues that deserve special focus. Another source of abiding concern is the creation of space debris through deliberate destruction of space assets which poses one of the most potent threats to long term sustainability of space activities. We reiterate that space debris mitigation is a common but differentiated responsibility. Much of the orbital debris which exists today is primarily the consequence

Check against delivery  
of the past and ongoing operations of major space faring nations. It is the major space faring nations, therefore, who should accept the primary responsibility to not only

alleviate the situation, but also to assist the developing and space emerging nations, both technically and financially, in meeting space debris mitigation guidelines.

**Mr. Chair,**

Global Navigation Satellite Systems have become an integral part of our societies and economies. The ability to accurately and reliably locate positions is an indispensable need in modern economies with wide ranging implications for the environment, management of natural resources, disaster warning and emergency response. In this regard, Pakistan views the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) as making valuable contribution to sustainable development. By seeking to promote compatibility, interoperability and transparency among different satellite navigation systems, the ICG's work will help bring these benefits of GNSS technologies to billions of people across the globe. This work holds particular relevance to the developing countries such as Pakistan which are interested in using GNSS for societal and developmental purposes. Lately, there has been a significant increase in utilization of GNSS applications in myriad fields of the economy. Our experts have been participating in various ICG and related UNOOSA activities since 2009. In order to further enhance this collaboration, we are seeking membership of the ICG and enjoy overwhelming support from its existing members. It is regrettable that a decision in this regard has been held up by one member. We hope that the work of this highly technical committee will not be politicized. We will continue to stay engaged with the ICG and remain optimistic that we will be able to contribute to its work as a member.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to a fruitful exchange of views among member states during this important session of the subcommittee.

Thank you.