

**Declaration UNOOSA Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: 2022**

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<b>From :</b>	Agência Espacial Portuguesa - Portugal Space
<b>To :</b>	Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN
<b>Cc :</b>	-
<b>Subject :</b>	Portuguese Declaration UNOOSA Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: 2022

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Representatives,

Mr. Chair,

As this is the first time the Portuguese delegation is taking the floor in this session, I would like to congratulate you on your nomination as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and formulate our best wishes to fulfil this fundamental and so important role.

Be assured that you can count on Portugal's full cooperation.

During the next decade we will see massive transformation of the space sector with new public and private actors, new international collaborations and new ways of facing Space exploration.

UNOOSA's role will face new challenges and will become more important in the international scene.

We are certain that, under your leadership, the works of this Sub Committee will be successful, and we are looking forward to working with you and the rest of the Members and Observers.

We would like also to make a recognition of the particularly demanding circumstances the censing Chair, Madame Natália Archinard, had to face and want to express a warm acknowledgement to all her work and her outstanding leadership. Obrigado Natália.

We also would like to thank UNOOSA and Secretariat for their excellent work in supporting this meeting and the ongoing works.

And, naturally, we would like to specially acknowledge all of Madam Simonetta Di Pippo's work during these last years as UNOOSA Director, all her accomplishments and steady leadership, the development of the institution ant its team and we cannot

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do other than profusely give our thanks for all of her commitment and wish her all the success in the new professional challenges and endeavours.

Mr. Chairman,

Further to the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union, which we fully support, we would like to convey some national points in this Subcommittee.

Portugal welcomes the **New Members**: Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama, Slovenia and especially Angola - a dear and long-standing partner. We are certain that this growing number of COPUOS member states and observers request, more than a sign of the political importance of space, is also the consequence of the increasing recognition of the importance of space by the society, by the socio-economic agents, and the growing presence of space in actively promoting a positive change in life on Earth.

And in relation to **observers**, Portugal supports the request of the Atlantic International Research Centre - Air Centre regarding the observer status. In fact, as sated in the annexes of Conference Room 5 document, Portugal had the lead in the creation and set up of this international networked institution along the Atlantic Ocean.

As of **the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space**, Portugal is actively committed to the implementation of the 2019 Guidelines and is a member of the new working group.

We have done an internal assessment of LTS Guidelines implementation and the results were very satisfactory, considering especially the national **regulatory framework** – comprising both the space law and the space regulation, that, inclusively, have an express legal reference to the UN Guidelines on **space debris** - and the interlink between some of the scientific themes that are being developed and their use and application by the national industry.

Regarding **registration**, we should note that Portugal already rectified the registry convention, in 2018, and has dedicated a section to registration both in the Space Law and the Space Regulation. Inclusively, we've added up some criteria to create an additional national registry – including, for instance, transfer of ownership of space objects or any accident that might have occurred.

The **Sustainable Development Goals** are prosecuted as part of the Portuguese Space Agency **policy**. This is reflected in several initiatives, including in one of the Agency's flagship projects: the AI Moonshot Challenge, launched at the Websummit that took place in 2020 under the motto: "A Sustainable Space for a Sustainable Earth", with proposals focused on the promotion of sustainable Oceans and in a sustainable management of terrestrial resources and Space resources, using artificial intelligence.

Also, this year edition of the Agency's annual conference, the **New Space Atlantic Summit**, will look precisely at the Sustainability of Space Operations, focusing on the future of Space Logistics and new services in orbit (In-orbit Servicing).

We believe that this will actively contribute to the so needed international cooperation, capacity-building and awareness and are keen to continue the work within the LTS Working group, praising the efforts of WG Chair, Mr. Umamaheswaran, to conclude the ongoing discussions on its terms of reference, methods of work and work plan.

Portugal is a member of the **SST - Space Surveillance and Tracking**, an EU program that aims to guarantee Europe's capacity for monitoring, characterization and tracking of space objects that may pose a real danger and which is becoming increasingly critical in the overall context of **space traffic management**, as part of a rational management of use of space.

Portugal strongly supports the "Our **Common Agenda**" proposed last year by the UN Secretary-General, and "a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations", that also encompasses a "multi-stakeholder dialogues on outer space" for a peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space.

For this reason, Portugal will contribute to the outer space dialogue promoting a conference together with UNOOSA on the road to the Summit of the Future.

Within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, Portugal hosted the **Africa-Europe space Earth observation** high-level forum, a hybrid event that took place in Lisbon and online last June.

The theme of the forum was "space as an enabler for digital and green transitions", with Earth observation fostering sustainable development, new skills and job creation. The forum aimed to foster European-African cooperation on advanced Earth observation (EO) and data processing systems and their applications in a user-driven approach.

Portugal welcomes the report on the United Nations, Spain and the International Astronomical Union on **Dark and Quiet Skies** for Science and Society and the summary of the discussions held, as expressed in document AC.105/1257. Portugal sees space as a platform to be developed to the benefit of all humankind. The sustainability of space and its preservation is important not only to advancing our understanding of the Universe of which we are a part, but also for the cultural heritage of all humanity and for the protection of nocturnal wildlife.

Therefore, we believe that a dialogue between all stakeholders is a key element to promote the sustainable use of space.

In this regard, we welcome the inclusion of this topic as a single point in the agenda of this Sub Committee.

We would also like to salute the working paper prepared by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Space Agency on further steps to enhance the **safety of nuclear power** source applications in outer space - document AC.105/C.1/L.395 -, stressing the clear the benefits for the international community and for the general public from an easy information exchange on safety expertise and lessons learned.

Portugal continues to actively promote the preservation of a safe and secure space environment and remains strongly committed to the safeguard of the long-term use of outer space.

Thank you