

**Statement by the Republic of Korea
at the Fifty-ninth Session
of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, February 7 – 18, 2022**

Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of Views

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening,

(Opening Remarks)

Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Ambassador Juan Fransisco Facetti (후안 프란시스코 파체티), on your election as a Chair and assure you the Republic of Korea's full support and cooperation. I would also like to convey my appreciation to Madam Nátalia Archinard(나탈리아 아치나드), the former Chair, for your leadership under the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like to thank the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, led by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo(시모네타 디 피포), and the Secretariat for their exceptional work throughout the past year and I wish all the best for Ms. Di Pippo of her new chapter of life.

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has played a pivotal role in convening solidarity and cooperation among member states. We the members of the Committee have strengthened global space cooperation by adopting *Space 2030 Agenda* at the 76th United Nations General Assembly and are promoting

the use of space technology in a more valuable way for the benefit of all humanity.

The Republic of Korea welcomes new membership of the Republic of Angola, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Slovenia and looks forward to strengthened international partnerships.

(Sustainable Development)

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

Responding to the climate crisis is a task at stake for the survival of all human beings. In this regard, in 2021 the Republic of Korea has set its 2050 Carbon Neutrality Goal with detailed future scenarios in order to mitigate the climate change.

In particular, air pollution raises the average global temperature and seriously threatens the quality of human lives. The Republic of Korea has been monitoring fine dust and other substances causing climate change through the *GEO-KOMPSAT-2B* satellite, which started its operation last year. The Republic of Korea has been sharing satellite observational data on nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and ultraviolet rays with other countries in the region and developed a program for joint operation.

In addition, the Republic of Korea is providing Aerosol transmission images in real-time. When highly concentrated fine dust appears, we could utilize the satellite-based aerosol movement images to have a detailed analysis of the dispersion and movement of fine dust around the Asian region and Korean Peninsula.

GEO-KOMPSAT-2B also constantly monitors marine pollution and debris dumping, which is expected to contribute to environmental conservation in the Asian region. We believe this will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

(Exploration and Space Science)

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

In 2022, as full-scale lunar exploration will be carried out, the Republic of Korea also plans to join the journey to the Moon. The ROK will launch Korea Pathfinder Lunar

Orbiter this August. After four months of its travel, the lunar orbiter will arrive in the area of the Moon in December and orbit around 100 kilometers above the ground for another year to investigate the lunar surface. The orbiter will carry total six payloads. In collaboration with the United States, the Shadowcam developed by NASA will be included as one of the payloads to probe the lunar surface and record the shaded areas of the lunar poles. This orbiter will also contribute to find candidate locations for future manned lunar landing.

In terms of space science, four CubeSats called SNIPE will be launched in the first half of this year, 500 kilometers above the sun-synchronous orbit, to monitor the small-scale plasma structure in the upper part of the ionosphere and its temporal and spatial changes. In addition, in 2024, the Republic of Korea will host the world's largest academic conference on space science, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), in Busan, the Korea's 2nd largest city. This will contribute to enhance level of scientific research in space and provide ground for networking among international space scientists.

(Capacity building)

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea will continuously contribute to build capacity on space-related activities for all. In this vein, the ROK will host the workshop "Space 4 Women" jointly with the UNOOSA, back to back with the 31st International Astronomical Union General Assembly in August this year. Details of the workshop has been already shared through our technical presentation delivered on February 8. Through this event, we wish to serve on enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the space sector.

(Space Sustainability)

As space is becoming more and more congested and complex, it is essential to build confidence among countries by implementing the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines drafted to secure the safety and sustainability of space activities.

Accordingly, the Republic of Korea looks forward to working with the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and will

actively participate in the following discussions for sustainable space activities.

For the safety and sustainability of space activities, the Republic of Korea has adopted a national recommendation for the development and operation of space vehicles to reduce space debris. Also, the Republic of Korea will host the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee this year to contribute to facilitating cooperation in space debris research.

Speaking of safety and sustainability, we have in the past unfortunately witnessed multiple anti-satellite (ASAT) tests which generated numerous small and large debris that could remain long in the orbit for extended periods. Long-lived debris generated by such intentional destruction of space objects undoubtedly endanger safe, secure and sustainable use of outer space. For the benefit of all, we call on all nations to refrain from such irresponsible behaviours and to further cooperate in developing international norms, rules, principles in this area.

(Closing Remarks)

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates,

Let me conclude my statement by reassuring that the Republic of Korea will engage actively in the Committee's discussions and further enhance international cooperation and partnership with COPUOS members.

Thank you. /End/