



**Statement by Zdravko Počivalšek, Minister for Economic Development and
Technology of the Republic of Slovenia,
at the 59th Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the
United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
Agenda Item 4: General exchange of views
(Vienna, 7 February 2022)**

Dear excellences and delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to represent Slovenia at its first meeting in the framework of this Committee. I wish to thank all the Member States for their support to Slovenia's membership. We are now 100 [one hundred] members in the United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Slovenia has joined this Committee in order to actively contribute to international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. It is priority for my country to utilise space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development.

Mister Chairperson,

My country has a longstanding connection to outer space. In recent years, Slovenia has been strengthening its space-related activities.

For the sake of time, I will mention just a few of them.

Firstly – I am proud that my country's first satellites were launched into space in September 2020. We are planning to launch new ones soon.

Secondly – in 2016 Slovenia signed an Association Agreement with ESA. It was upgraded in 2020.

Our aim is to become a full member in the near future.

Thirdly – the first Slovenian Act on the Supervision of Space Activities is in final stages of preparation.

And finally – Slovenian space sector has been in steady growth for a number of years. Slovenian companies are engaged in various fields of space industry. They are focusing especially on niche products and services that are used by ESA, NASA, and other important international players.

Mister Chairperson,

I am pleased that we have strengthened our cooperation in outer space at an important anniversary for Slovenia - 30 years of membership in the United Nations.

We want to further our commitment to multilateralism and international peace and security.

Therefore, we have decided for candidature for membership in the UN Security Council for the period 2024-2025.

Mister Chairperson, dear delegates,

We have to address important challenges and tasks in the field of peaceful use of outer space. I am confident that the Committee and its Sub-Committees are up to the task and I assure you of my country's full support.

I wish all of us a successful meeting.

Thank you for your attention.