

## **Agenda Item 7: Space Debris**

### **Republic of Korea**

#### **UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Sixtieth Session February 9, 2023**

---

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

With an explosive increase and diversification of space activities and actors, space is becoming more congested. Accordingly, risks posed by space debris and the need to address these risks have also increased. And the Subcommittee has been at the center of scientifically and technically addressing the problem of space debris.

As a responsible actor in outer space, the Republic of Korea places great importance on this issue. Last October, Korea committed not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. We also sponsored the related UN General Assembly First Committee resolution which calls upon all States to commit so. We believe that this voluntary commitment and efforts to develop norms of responsible behavior in outer space will contribute to the mitigation of space debris.

To contribute to the international efforts to respond to increasing space debris, we also held a meeting of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee last October. Participants explored ways to mitigate space debris in the new space era, including the further development of guidelines and active removal services.

Furthermore, we are developing our space environment monitoring system to track our satellites and limit the probability of accidental collisions in orbit. As we plan to launch eight more Korean Positioning System (KPS) satellites and three geostationary satellites by 2035, Korea

will thoroughly prepare for a safe space environment while respecting the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

In this regard, the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute, our national Space Situational Awareness (SSA) organization, operates a space object electronic optical monitoring system (OWL) that monitors low orbits below 2,000 km and a Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) system that tracks specific objects.

To fill the surveillance blank in medium and high orbit areas, we also plan to introduce an optical monitoring system that monitors space objects in the areas of 2,000 to 36,000 km. The size of the telescope's primary mirror is 0.8 meters, which is more than 50 percent larger than the mirror of the existing system. The development of a SSA radar system to monitor space objects with a diameter of 10 cm or more in LEO is also being planned. When combined with the aforementioned optical and laser tracking system, this new monitoring system will be able to monitor objects from LEO to GEO.

With our upgraded monitoring system and increased interest in Space Traffic Management, we hope to enhance our contribution to international efforts to mitigate space debris. Thank you.

/END/