

**Agenda Item # 16: Geostationary Orbit Mr. Chairman**

**Mr. Chairman**

We believe that GSO is a limited natural resource which must be available to all Member States of United Nations (UN) / International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on equitable basis irrespective of their technical capacities and its use must be governed by Article 44 of the ITU constitution and Outer Space Treaty of the United Nations.

Pakistan is operating a GSO satellite the Paksat-1R at 38°E in C and Ku bands for providing telecommunication services within its territory. The launch of next GSO satellite the Paksat-MM1 at 38.2°E is planned in year 2024. It is a multi-mission communication satellite comprising of L-, C-, Ku- (planned & unplanned) and Ka-band payloads. This satellite is of critical importance for Pakistan, as it will allow millions of Pakistani citizens to have access to advanced telecommunications services.

**Mr. Chairman**

During the coordination of PAKSAT satellite networks we found that equitable access to the frequency and orbital resources at GSO is a big challenge. Although ITU has developed planned band regime (AP30/30A/30B) guaranteeing equitable access to Geostationary Orbit for member states with specific spectrum however it has certain technological limitations making it difficult to materialize. Unplanned band where the technology is mature, the current utilization of Geostationary Orbit is on the first come first served basis that has made this natural resource difficult for countries that do not have the technology or are late in their application to ITU, even this country cannot provide satellite service within our own national territory.

Moreover, we also found that ITU's RR provision No. 11.49 has made vulnerable the access of developing countries to Orbit & Spectrum Resources of GSO. It has been observed that Satellite operators perform satellite maneuvers for temporary operations at particular orbital slot for 90 days to fulfill ITU's condition and then remove the satellite

claiming suspension of satellite operations under No 11.49 to retain the GSO for next 3 years. In some cases, this practice is repeated several times for an orbital slot thereby restricting the access of others to nearby orbit slots for commercial uses outside the country's territory.

**Mr. Chairman**

We consider that in order to ensure sustainability of the optimum utilization of geostationary orbit, it is necessary to uphold this issue on the agenda of the Subcommittee and the Subcommittee may examine and scrutinize the above mentioned issues through the technical studies by ITU, creation of appropriate working groups and intergovernmental panels, as necessary,

We also support Guidelines for the Long Term Sustainability (LTS) for Outer Space Activities to ensure the equitable, rational and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum and the various orbital regions used by satellites.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman**