



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**Statement by Slovenia,
at the 60th Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the
United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views
(Vienna, 6 February 2023)**

Dear excellences and delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to point out that we consider COPUOS to be a technical committee. However, the committee and its subcommittees do not exist in a vacuum and isolation from the pressing situation endured by the people of Ukraine. Slovenia condemns in strongest possible terms unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation is grossly violating international law, including the UN Charter and this is something COPUOS and its subcommittees cannot ignore.

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent years, my country has been strengthening its space-related activities, including by launching its first satellites in 2020. In 2022, Slovenia launched its third satellite - Trisat-R, which is a product of Slovenian engineering and is dedicated to space weather observation. It is also one of the few nano satellites successfully operating in the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO). In addition to this another satellite from the Trisat family is planned to be launched in the near future. The Slovenian space sector has witnessed steady growth in recent years, and for this reason, a need for legal regulation of this important field has arisen. In March 2022 the Slovenian Parliament has adopted the Space Activities Act - its English version is available on the UNOOSA National Space Law database. In addition to this, in September 2022 the Government adopted a subsidiary Regulation to the Act.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Slovenian Space Activities Act enshrined the LTS (Long-term Sustainability) Guidelines in our national legislation. This is connected to the fact that the extraordinary expansion of space-related activities across the globe is making the implementation of the LTS Guidelines implementation more important than ever. In face of this, we submit that it is not only important to provide capacity building for government institutions but also for companies.

Mr. Chairperson,

The growth of space economy and the advent of mega constellations compels us to reflect on their impacts on the climate and environment and as matter of fact - the night sky. In this regard, Slovenia welcomes the CRP (Conference Room Paper) on the Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies for science and society.

To turn the lens the other way around - back to Earth, I would like to stress that my government and the Slovenian space sector have been strengthening its activities pertaining to Earth Observation. We view this important field of peaceful uses of outer space as a gateway towards sustainable development, inclusive digitalisation, green transition and environmental protection.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, the international community is facing a broad variety of space-related challenges, to name just two of them – space debris and space resources – and we are adamant that it is essential to approach them multilaterally through this distinguished Committee.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.