

60th Session of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS
Thailand's Statement on
Agenda item 3. General exchange of views, February 6th, 2023

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to present an update on our work in support of the aim of Scientific Technology Subcommittee.

The cabinet of Thailand has approved the procedure of objects launched into outer space submissions, establishing an official mechanism to support and encourage Thai actors to register their satellites with UNOOSA. In December 2022, we collaborated with United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs arranged Thailand Technical Advisory Mission workshop with the purpose of raise awareness in the space treaties and space law. The workshop welcomed participants from Thailand and ASEAN region and provided the floor for exchange of views on formulation of national space law.

Last year, we made significant progress in space law and policy. The Cabinet of Thailand did approve the concept of the draft of Thailand's National Space Act, expected to be legislated within 3 years. The purpose of the law is to assist space actors, both governmental and non-governmental entities, by providing the initial practices and safety frameworks for conducting outer space activities. Moreover, the Act will be the key mechanism to boost up Thailand's space program, by fostering new services and promoting the "New Space Economy". We hope that this Act will be the starting point to establish the enforcement authority for our national activities in outer space.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

In order to support the New Space Economy policy in Thailand, the National Space Master Plan has been approved by the National Space Policy committee. The plan comprises of 8 strategies purpose to enhance Thailand space affairs for National Security, Sustainable Development, Space Economic Development, Infrastructure Management, Research and Development, Human Development and Empowerment and International Collaboration, including Driving Mechanism for the Master Plan. The Master Plan's goal is to promote space technology as a mechanism for country development and economic growth from deep technology.

Regarding the policy for space frontier research, the cabinet of Thailand also approved the strategy on Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation which contains in-country satellite development and space exploration projects. The flagship plan priorities have been aimed at leveraging scientific community to serve space economy and geo-informatics utilization

Regarding satellite program, this year, Thailand Earth observation satellites, THEOS-2 and a small satellite THEOS-2A, will be launched to the orbit. The THEOS-2 system is expected to reform and enhance industries related to space in Thailand, both space and non-space industries. There are Thai engineers participating the small satellite development technology transfer, increasing the space manpower in the country. The small satellite's payload was designed and built by the Thai engineers with the collaboration. In addition, the small satellite was tested by the Satellite Assembly, Integration and Test (AIT) facilities in Thailand. The THEOS-2 program is not just satellites, but also construction of the cornerstones strengthening the Thai space ecosystem.

Furthermore, Thailand has placed importance on enlargement of space supply chain, such as businesses pertinent to ground equipment, satellite services, as well as Satellite manufacturing and assembly industry. A group of local manufacturers in the country also contributed to provide materials and subsystems to the THEOS-2A small satellite.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

Even Thailand's investment on space activities is a small part of global space ecosystem, but we have strategically posited the infrastructure, people, and businesses to be able to reinforce society and economy. We are proposing space to be an effective and unique engine to develop Thailand, with the incomparable advantages space has brought to us. As space is a mutual asset for us all, Thailand also highlights international cooperation in all platforms. The COPUOS is an exceptional forum that we have put as a priority and intended to contribute activities of the committee. With the aim to see the peaceful paradigm, Thailand will put efforts to grow long-term sustainability of outer space together with all countries.

Thank you Mr. Chair.