



Statement on Agenda Item No. 3  
(General Exchange of Views and  
Introduction of Reports submitted on  
National Activities) delivered by Nigeria.

At the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-  
Committee of the United Nations Committee on the  
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Vienna, 06<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, February 2023

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation wishes to commend your efforts for steering the affairs of this subcommittee in the most efficient way. I would like to reassure you of our continued support and cooperation as you preside over this Session.

2. We further use this opportunity to compliment the high quality of work by Mr. Niklas Hedman, the Acting Director of OOSA and his team of dedicated staff, for the 60th Session of the Sub- Committee.

3. Nigeria warmly welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Mr. Philbert Johnson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations on behalf of the African Group. We also align with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E Aftab Ahmad Khokher Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan and would like to make the following statement in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,**

5. Nigeria, through the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for English speaking African countries (ARCSSTE-E), will continue to complement the efforts of the United Nations in developing indigenous capacity and maximize the benefits of space technology in the developing countries. The Regional Centre is deeply committed to research and capacity building in the 5 prime areas of Remote Sensing/GIS which are; Satellite Meteorology and Global Climate; Satellite Communication; Basic Space and Atmospheric Science and Global Navigation Satellite System and other related applications. I am pleased to inform that in the 24 years of the establishment of ARCSSTEE a total of 601 postgraduate students from 19 English Speaking countries in Africa have been trained. My delegation will make a detailed presentation on the activities of the Center under the appropriate Agenda Item during this session.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. Nigeria's Venture into Space is not a mere adventure or coincidence, but in pursuit of new strategies and solutions to numerous problems targeted at enhancing the quality of life of the common man. Such ventures include the way we manage our resources and environment as well as our social lives. It was indeed a deliberate and strategic approach to tackle the numerous socio-economic problems facing the

Nation. Nigeria has continued to increase her patronage of space dependent technologies in vital aspects of national developments. The use of drones in military and civil surveillance is at increasing levels. Also, the recently concluded off-term elections were conducted using the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) which is a space-dependent technology. This technology is expected to improve the integrity of the electoral system in the forthcoming general elections scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. Nigeria established a Centre for Atmospheric Research (CAR), in January 2013 with a clear mandate for research and capacity building in the atmospheric and related sciences. CAR is dedicated to understanding the atmosphere, the air around us and the interconnected processes that make up the Earth system, from the ocean floor through the ionosphere to the Sun's core. The Centre for Atmospheric Research provides research facilities and services for the atmospheric and Earth sciences community. This is in line with the country's commitment to the safety of the outer space environment. My delegation is pleased to inform that in November 2022, the Vice President of Nigeria, inaugurated the Nigerian Bowen Equatorial Aeronomy Radar system NigerBEAR at the Bowen University Campus, Iwo, Nigeria, this project is a tripod cooperation between the Virginia Tech, USA, the National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria and the Bowen University. The project is expected to be a global infrastructure for space weather science which is expected to help improve our understanding of the ionosphere. Progress attained in Nigeria on this item will be presented by my delegation during the relevant Agenda Item at this Session of the Sub-Committee.

**Furthermore Mr. Chairman,**

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. Nigeria continue to host the West and Central African Regional Support Offices (RSO) for the implementation of the UN-SPIDER programme. The UN-SPIDER RSO in Nigeria has continued to perform its duties in accordance with the stipulated mandates to promote the use of space technologies in disaster risk management, emergency response and recovery efforts.

9. My Delegation is also pleased to inform that the UNSPIDER mission team visited Nigeria in September, 2022 and organized an Inter-institutional workshop in collaboration with NASRDA, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Nigeria and the Centre for Remote Sensing of Land Surface of the University of Bonn, Germany (ZFL). The workshop which was titled "The Use of Space-Based

Information for Flood Response and Early Warning” had a total of 104 participants from 30 different institutions. The event contributed to raising awareness on recent developments made by the space community with regards to contributing to disaster response efforts worldwide.

10. In conclusion Mr Chair, Nigeria would like to emphasize the need for the exploration and uses of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and also calls on the prevention of the weaponization of the outer space to preserve peace and security to the benefit of human kind. We strongly reiterate our position on equitable access to space domain for all actors regardless of the level of space technology development and advancement each actor has attained.

**I Thank you all.**