

## Canada

### **Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities**

**Delivered by: Ambassador Troy Lulashnyk, Ambassador of Canada to Austria, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Sixty-first session, Vienna, January 29 – February 9, 2024

Chair, distinguished delegates.

The Canadian delegation would like to welcome Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini in her new position as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and extends its appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman who did a remarkable job as Acting Director. Canada would also like to thank Ambassador Facetti for his tremendous work as Chair of this Subcommittee and welcome the new Chair. We can assure you of Canada's full cooperation towards the success of this session.

Chair,

We would like to thank the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for co-hosting the 4th edition of the Space4Women Expert Meeting in Montreal from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. I personally thank the 70 experts from over 35 countries that came together in Montreal to help us build capacity to promote and advance gender equality in the space sector. The expert meeting was a great success. In addition, Canada is grateful to all of those in the global space community, including space agencies, academia, industry, and international organizations that worked together to prepare the first ever gender mainstreaming toolkit for the space sector. The Expert Meeting inspired us to think innovatively and come up with ideas to advance gender equality as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Canada was immensely proud to be co-host of this important event.

2023 was also significant for space exploration and space utilization in Canada. In May, Canada announced \$1.1 billion to continue its participation in the International Space Station (ISS) through 2030, where for more than 22 years, space explorers have lived and worked continuously in low Earth orbit. Since its launch, the ISS has been visited by 266 people. Canada's investment in space also included a significant commitment to: support Canadian scientific research on the Lunar Gateway; develop a lunar utility vehicle to assist astronauts on the Moon; and, additional funding over five years for the next phase of the lunar exploration program.

In October 2023, Canada announced over \$1 billion for future satellite Earth observation data needs. The funding will be used to design and develop a replacement satellite for the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) and design a next-generation satellite system to succeed RCM. This initiative, called RADARSAT+, will ensure continuity of essential Earth Observation satellite data so that Canada can continue delivering essential services. RADARSAT+ will continue

Canada's legacy as a globally recognized leader in this area, a reputation established with the launch of the first RADARSAT satellite in 1995.

Chair,

Canada continues the preparation for Artemis II, the first crewed mission around the Moon in half a century. A Canadian astronaut, Jeremy Hansen, will be part of the mission, making Canada the second country to have an astronaut fly around the Moon. The mission will enable the four astronauts on board to test and validate several vital elements such as mission planning, system performance, crew interfaces and guidance and navigation systems. Ultimately, this mission will prepare for humanity's return to the Moon's surface with the Artemis III mission. In November, Canadian astronaut Jenni Gibbons was assigned as a backup astronaut for Jeremy Hansen on the Artemis II mission. Jenni will be part of a very select team of key contributors who will define and validate the astronauts' training and processes for future Moon missions. Canada was also excited to announce the fourth Canadian to be selected to participate in a long duration flight to the ISS. Astronaut Joshua Kutryk's assignment will take place in early 2025 and he will be the first Canadian to fly under NASA's Commercial Crew Program aboard the Boeing CSA-100 Starliner.

**\*French\***

Monsieur le président, distingués délégués,

Cette année, la collaboration en matière d'exploration spatiale a connu un autre succès retentissant avec le retour sur Terre de l'échantillon de l'astéroïde Bennu grâce à la mission OSIRIS-REx. La participation canadienne à la mission, a un système LIDAR capable de balayer la surface de l'astéroïde à une distance pouvant aller jusqu'à sept kilomètres a permis de cartographier la surface de l'astéroïde et a aidé les scientifiques à déterminer l'emplacement d'origine d'échantillonnage. La portion canadienne de l'échantillon devrait arriver au siège social de l'Agence Spatiale Canadienne plus tard cette année, ce qui permettra aux scientifiques canadiens d'analyser l'échantillon et d'affiner notre compréhension de l'histoire du système solaire.

Monsieur le président,

Il est déplorable qu'aujourd'hui encore, sur une période de près de deux ans, nos sessions se déroulent dans le contexte de l'invasion continue de l'Ukraine par la Russie. Comme en témoignent les récentes attaques, la Russie continue de détruire ou de capturer des infrastructures civiles essentielles, telles que les installations des réseaux électriques, énergétiques et de communication, empêchant ainsi les civils d'avoir accès à des services spatiaux essentiels, dont les Ukrainiens dépendent pour leurs activités quotidiennes. Ces attaques portent continuellement atteinte à l'ordre international légal ainsi qu'à la paix et à la

sécurité internationales, y compris en ce qui concerne l'utilisation pacifique de l'espace extraatmosphérique.

Monsieur le président,

En conclusion, le Canada est fier d'annoncer sa décision de se joindre officiellement au Groupe consultatif pour la planification des missions spatiales afin d'élaborer des activités de coopération, des options d'atténuation, des plans de mise en œuvre et des recommandations concernant les objets géocroiseurs et la défense planétaire. Enfin, nous souhaitons souligner l'importance de parvenir à une solution concernant l'établissement d'un point à l'ordre du jour sur l'initiative pour la protection du Ciel sombre et Calme au sein de ce sous-comité afin de permettre un dialogue plus approfondi sur ce sujet. Le Canada souhaite réitérer son engagement et son soutien à l'égard de ce sous-comité et de ses travaux, et souhaite à tous une session fructueuse.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.