

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 61ST SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 30 JANUARY 2024

Chair,

1 Singapore congratulates you on your election as the Chair of the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assures you of Singapore's full support and cooperation. We thank Ambassador Facetti of Paraguay for his able stewardship of the Subcommittee for the past two years. And we also congratulate Ms Aarti Holla-Maini on her appointment as Director of UNOOSA, and we look forward to working with her and the Office to further the peaceful uses of outer space.

2 Singapore underscores the importance of preserving outer space as a peaceful global commons, so that we may harness its potential for the collective betterment and benefit of humankind. The UN has played an indispensable role in that regard, and Singapore contributes to that objective by supporting the crucial work of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to advance guidelines for long-term sustainability in outer space.

3 Space plays a critical role in Singapore's aviation, maritime, and sustainability domains. We have a growing local space ecosystem engaged in a wide range of activities, from the design and manufacture of space components to the provision of satellite-enabled services.

4 Singapore's national space office, the Office for Space Technology & Industry (OSTIn), supports the growth of Singapore's space industry. Through our S\$150M Space Technology Development Programme, which we launched in 2022, we have funded about 40 projects across fields such as advanced remote sensing, space data analytics & artificial intelligence, satellite communications as well as in-space infrastructure & manufacturing.

5 In 2023, Singapore launched nine satellites into space. Amongst these, is TeLEOS-2, which has a polarimetric synthetic aperture radar (PolSAR) payload, designed and made in Singapore. Operating in near-equatorial orbit, the satellite offers high resolution imagery with an average of 14 passes a day, offering enhanced and wider coverage of major shipping routes as well as disaster-prone and forest fire regions. Notably, TeLEOS-2 can support numerous applications, in areas such as disaster monitoring and management, environmental monitoring, natural resources management, climate change and weather studies. It also allows for improved monitoring, mapping and quantification, as well as multiparameter details of different surfaces.

6 Singapore works to support meaningful initiatives to strengthen space research capabilities. In 2023, Singapore became the 15th Asian nation and 46th member of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU) hosted the fifth COSPAR Symposium in Singapore in April 2023, with the theme: ‘Space Science with Small Satellites’. I am pleased to note that the Director of NTU’s Remote Sensing Lab of the Earth Observatory of Singapore will deliver a technical presentation on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief next Tuesday, 6 February 2024. We encourage all interested parties to join us for the presentation.

7 Singapore participates actively at multilateral fora such as the International Astronautical Congress, G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting, the Artemis Accords, Space for Climate Observatory, Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA). This year, in addition to hosting the annual Global Space and Technology Convention, Singapore will also host SCOSA.

8 Over the past year, Singapore has collaborated with our international partners in space R&D, human capital development, and space policy and law. OSTIn has enhanced partnerships with the Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA) and the Thai Geoinformatics and Space Technology Development Agency. Singapore and the US also convened the inaugural US-Singapore Space Dialogue in Washington D.C. this past October.

9 Singapore is committed to the objectives and purpose of COPUOS. We believe that small states and emerging space players can play a constructive role in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. We will continue to support efforts to promote an open, inclusive, and rules-based approach to the responsible use of space by all. Through bilateral exchanges and multilateral partnerships, we also look forward to forging deeper cooperation with partners.

10 Thank you, Mdm Chair.

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