



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !

Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the International Organisations in Vienna,
at the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
of the United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 30 January 2024

Thank you Madame Chairperson.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by congratulating the newly appointed UNOOSA Director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, on taking up this important function and wishing her every success in leading COPUOS as a cohesive body in the space field. We are confident that her vast experience will bring new energy into the work of the Committee. At the same time, we would also like to thank Niklas Hedman for his successful (interim ?) leadership.

Madame Chairperson,

In light of the changed geopolitical situation, which brings upon us new challenges, there have been many advances in the development of new technologies. They are changing the

image of the global space sector while setting new priorities. We are pleased that Slovenia is also able to contribute its share.

In November 2023, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia approved the Slovenian Space Strategy. It is the first document of its kind that provides guidelines for further development of the space sector in Slovenia. It also paves way for international cooperation, which is crucial for the global development of the sector while maintaining the safety and security of activities in space and on Earth.

The strategy places particular emphasis on the area of green digital transition and contributes to the achievement of long-term development goals by using existing and new space technologies, among others.

Slovenia ~~is still actively involved~~ still closely follows ~~in recent developments~~ of the STM (Space Traffic Management) initiative, as one of the cornerstones of the fair and sustainable use of space. ~~This is not~~ Effective management of this issue is, of course, not possible without close cooperation from all international partners.

We would especially like to highlight the achievement of the third Slovenian nano satellite, TriSat R, which has been successfully operating in medium Earth orbit for a year and a half. This is a great achievement in the technological field in terms of miniaturization and the use of materials that are resistant to the harsh conditions in space. Solutions can be used for further missions.

Madame Chairperson,

Let me conclude by saying that outer space is a global commons. Free for exploration and use by all States without any discrimination. It must be based on the principle of equality and in accordance with international law. My country will continue to actively promote the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment. We must strengthen our efforts to ensure peaceful use and access to outer space for future generations.

Thank you.