

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS)

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 2024

**Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

Agenda item 4: General exchange of views

Madam Chair, distinguish delegates.

First, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, for chairing this session of the Scientific and Technical Committee, and we extend our deep appreciation to all the staff of UNOOSA and its director UNOOSA Director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini for the excellent preparation of the committee meetings.

We welcome the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). This committee yet again stresses our collective commitment to advancing space scientific knowledge and promoting technological innovation for the progress and welfare of all humankind.

Madam Chair, in 2023, the United Arab Emirates has reached notable milestones in its space endeavors. Hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), the UAE underscored the significance of the space sector in addressing climate change and sustainability. As part of its commitment, the UAE organized the first of its kind 'Space Agencies Leaders' Summit', which brought together more than international 20 space agencies. Space Leaders discussed enhancing data sharing between established and emerging space nations, strengthening climate research by allocating resources and funding towards climate research initiatives within the space sector, supporting climate monitoring initiatives by establishing new programs, and promoting sustainable space operations by minimizing the environmental impact of space operations. The summit concluded with adopting a pledge to enhance space-based climate initiatives, financing of climate programs, strengthening climate research, and supporting global efforts in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement

In addition, the UAE Space Agency hosted the space pavilion during COP28 in collaboration with international space agencies, under the slogan 'Space for Sustainability'. The conference conducted over 60 dialogue sessions and presentations, featuring experts and leaders from space agencies, international organizations, and decision-makers through the Space for Sustainability initiative.

Furthermore, the UAE Space Agency conducted the Sustainability Hackathon in collaboration with FAO and number of key players from the private sector, bringing together more than 50 experts and researchers who, in four days, developed nine innovative solutions addressing climate issues through the use of space data.

These efforts underscore the UAE's dedication to advancing sustainability and addressing climate change through advanced space technologies, bringing us closer to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 13.

2024 will mark the continuation of UAE's commitment to space dialogue with the upcoming 2nd edition of the Abu Dhabi Space Debate, that will take place in Abu Dhabi during the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. The Abu Dhabi Space Debate will host influential figures from the international space industry, government officials, business leaders, and policymakers. The discussions will center on three pivotal themes: space sustainability, space accessibility, and space security. This platform aims to foster discussion and collaboration, addressing challenges and propelling innovation in the dynamic and evolving space domain.

Madam Chair, esteemed delegates, the UAE reaffirms its commitment to support the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in its endeavors to achieve its goals. Our shared responsibility demands collaborative action, and together, we are committed to fostering peaceful and beneficial uses of outer space for the greater well-being of our global community.

Thank you, Madam Chair.