

Agenda Item 6: Space Debris

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

With an explosive increase and diversification of space activities and actors, space is becoming more congested. Accordingly, risks posed by space debris and the need to address these risks have also increased.

As a responsible actor in outer space activities, the Republic of Korea initiated the establishment of a space risk response system in 2023 to effectively address the potential hazards associated with falling and colliding space objects.

Starting this year, we are embarking on the development and deployment of an 80cm-aperture optical space object surveillance telescope in the southern hemisphere. This telescope will complement the OWL-Net space object optical surveillance system currently operating in the northern hemisphere, allowing us to monitor space objects from MEO (Medium Earth Orbit) to GEO (Geostationary Earth Orbit). Additionally, in 2023, we began the development of an integrated space risk assessment system, known as KEPLER(Korea Enhanced Platform for Lowering spaceE Risk). KEPLER will analyze the risk associated with space object reentry and

collisions based on the observations gathered through optics, radar and lasers.

Furthermore, drawing from the insights gained through the implementation of our initial 10-year preparedness plan for space risk, spanning from 2014 to 2023, we are currently working on the process to establish the 2nd plan this year.

The forthcoming plan will notably encompass policies, technology development and initiatives aimed at promoting international cooperation promotion, with a specific focus on addressing space debris concerns. The Republic of Korea is steadfast in its commitment to enhance global endeavors in space debris mitigation through space object monitoring system and space situation awareness.

Thank you.

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