

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
(25 August-3 September 2021)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election. We would like to express Turkey's full support for the success of the meeting. We also appreciate the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees are unique intergovernmental platforms at the global level to discuss the challenges and achievements and enhance international cooperation, in particular with regard to scientific and space technology and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and develop international norms and standards.

In this regard, we believe that international community should make further efforts and search all possible ways and means of taking advantage of this comprehensive structure in order to deliver our common objectives on space-related issues.

As it is one of the latest examples of these efforts, we would like to renew our support for the "Space2030" Agenda and its implementation plan. We appreciate the efforts of the Working Group and we welcome the agreement on the final consolidated draft "Space2030" agenda and implementation plan. We believe that it will help promoting further international cooperation and sustainability of space activities.

In addition, we are pleased that 21 Guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities were adopted. We believe that the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will facilitate information sharing and capacity building in this field and address the new challenges.

We welcome the establishment of the new Working Group on Space Resources. We reiterate our support for Ambassador Misztal and Professor Freeland. We believe that the Working Group will contribute significantly to the discussions regarding the potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The existing international legal regime governing outer space provides a sound basis for space activities.

All states should be encouraged to adhere to the existing legal regime. As one of the few member states party to all UN Space Treaties, we call upon those who have not yet done so to sign and ratify all five Treaties in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space.

In addition, Turkey supports initiatives and exploration of non-binding measures aimed at addressing legal gaps and challenges toward achieving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

On the other hand, we firmly believe that any current and future international legal framework should not impose significant difficulties, unattainable standards or thresholds for countries in their space activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Guided by the word and spirit of the international treaties, Turkey has long been expanding its space activities and capabilities.

In this regard, Turkish Space Agency aims to strengthen the industry, improve scientific infrastructure and develop human resources in the field of space technology.

In line with these progressive national policies, Turkey announced its National Space Program on 9 February 2021.

The strategic goals of Turkey's National Space Program include Moon Mission, merging national satellite production activities under one single authority, developing a regional positioning and timing system for Turkey, ensuring access to space and establishing a space port administration, increasing Turkey's efficiency in terms of astronomical observations and investing in space weather and meteorology. Turkish National Space Program also aims to develop space economy industry, establish a space technology development region in Turkey to promote investment in the sector, develop competent human resources in the field and send Turkish citizens to space with a scientific mission.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support for the COPUOS, UNOOSA and to you for a successful meeting.

Thank you.