

Sri Lanka, Item 15

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka recognizes the Space2030 Agenda as one of the most important milestones in the history of evolution of peaceful uses of outer space, as well as in their comprehensive mobilization in realizing the globally agreed agenda on sustainable development. My delegation wishes to congratulate the working group on the Space2030 Agenda, which, having initiated its work following the UNISPACE+50 process, has just adopted its report on the proposed Space 2030 Agenda and the implementation-plan. My delegation trusts that the committee will see its adoption during the present session, leading to its subsequent adoption by the General Assembly later this year, as a highest level political document promoting stronger mobilization of space technology and applications in furtherance of the cause of the common future of the mankind. Sri Lanka will stay firmly committed in its support to the process of its adoption and, importantly, its effective implementation in the coming years.

My delegation appreciates the Vienna spirit of consensus demonstrated by all delegations in coming together and agreeing on this consolidated draft agenda and the work-plan.

Mr. Chairman,

Whilst being appreciative of the efficacy of the document, in terms of its articulation of the guiding principles, the broader vision, and the strategic intent, my delegation wishes to underscore the criticality of introducing, in the process of implementation, some specific time bound actions with quantifiable and

measurable targets, in order to ensure effective realization of the Space 2030 Agenda. We underscore its significance, particularly with regard to the actions pertaining to such measures as bridging the capacity gaps between the countries, enabling technology transfer, and leveraging the support of the frameworks of international, multilateral and bilateral cooperation, as indicated in relation to the pillar of 'space accessibility' of the Space2030 agenda.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

Coming back to the present draft report on "Space2030" agenda, the paragraph 24 states,

I quote:

"In implementing the "Space2030" Agenda, Member States could contribute to and benefit from a number of international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms that are already in place or are being developed, such as the following:"

I unquote:

And the said paragraph goes on to identify a number of entities exemplifying such possible 'international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms'.

With regard to those existing 'international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms' that the implementation process of Space2030 Agenda can possibly rely upon, Sri Lanka wishes to highlight the 'Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development 2018-

2030', which has been already adopted and set in motion by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). We are strongly appreciative of the high degree of action-orientation evident in the above plan of action, which we believe is the result of the comprehensive process of country-needs assessment that preceded its formulation and adoption.

The delegation of Sri Lanka believes the aforesaid 'Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development 2018-2030' of the United Nations ESCAP should pretty much belong there amongst 'the international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms' referred to and, exemplified for, in para 24 of the report. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, my delegation wishes to invite the attention of the Committee to consider the same in the future process of implementation of the plan, as appropriate, and express our strong support for the same.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, re-iterating Sri Lanka's strong support and commitment in adoption and implementation of the Space2030 Agenda.

I thank you.

Name of the Delegate: **SANATH PANAWENNAGE**