

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

The Government of Hungary has recently approved the Space Strategy of Hungary, which is fully in line with European Union's Space Programme and the European Space Agency's "Agenda 2025". The Strategy has a strong economic focus, emphasizing the need for increased cooperation among business, research and academia, and calls for a more active international engagement.

International cooperation is key for achieving results in such a global endeavour as space research. Besides Hungary's activities in the realm of the European Space Agency and a number of joint scientific projects with Russian partners, we are proud to have signed bilateral protocols of cooperation with counterparts in Brazil, France, Israel, Portugal, Singapore, Turkey, and most recently with the South African National Space Agency.

One of the flagship projects of the Space Strategy of Hungary is to conduct scientific experiments and test innovative equipment in microgravity aboard the International Space Station by a Hungarian project-astronaut. The planned scientific-astronaut's mission is to be achieved during the first half of this decade with an American partner. This endeavour presents an outstanding opportunity for Hungarian space research – that celebrates a 75 years old heritage – to innovate further in areas of space communication, life-sciences, material sciences, studying space weather, etc.

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how better to prepare for another Hungarian human space mission than to meet astronauts and discuss their personal experiences and recommendations? Budapest is preparing to host the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Association of Space Explorers between 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November this year. We hope to greet many astronauts and experts, and continue working together with the international space community to achieving great results together for the benefit of mankind.

My colleagues and I look forward to discussions on relevant topics on the agenda of the Committee, with particular regard to Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, Space and sustainable development, as well as climate change issues. Thank you for your attention!