

**Sixty-fourth Session of the United Nations Committee on the
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS);**

25 August-3 September 2021; Vienna, Austria

Agenda Item No. 04: General Exchange of Views

Statement of behalf of Executive Director ISNET

Bismillah ir Rahman ir Rahim

Distinguished Delegates, Representatives and Mr. Chairman

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET) at this sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee and wish you all the success. We are confident that under your able leadership this Committee will achieve substantial progress on the issues currently under discussion. Moreover, I am appreciative of the efforts of the Directorate and staff of the office for planning, preparing and organizing this session in a befitting manner despite the current pandemic situation.

Mr. Chairman,

Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET) was established in 1987 as an inter-state organization having international status. It is also non-political, non-profit and self-governing institution working under the ambit of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). ISNET is mandated to promote space science, space technology and applications for peaceful purposes in OIC member countries and to foster meaningful international cooperation amongst them.

ISNET became the permanent observer of UN COPUOS in 2013. The Network actively participates in the United Nations Programme on Space

Applications through co-sponsorships of international conferences and workshops.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure to inform you about the activities conducted by ISNET since the last session of UNCOPUOS.

In order to continually stay abreast with the space-related developments in the area of Space Science, technology and applications and to identify opportunities for capacity-building of the member states, ISNET sought the status of Observer at APSCO.

Being Observer of APSCO has enabled both the organizations to share their activity plan with each other and facilitate participation in activities on reciprocal basis. In 2020, ISNET participated in 4x distance training courses of APSCO related to satellite systems and its applications. Around 40x officials from ISNET member states benefitted from these informative courses.

Furthermore, in 2020, ISNET organized 3x distance training courses in collaboration with SUPARCO and Azercosmos on Space Debris and Earth Observation. The courses were attended by over 55x participants from OIC member states.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the prevalence of pandemic in year 2021, ISNET Secretariat continued with its objectives in developing the manpower of its member states by organizing distance training activities. ISNET devised an intensive online capacity building program for year 2021 with the target of conducting on an average 1x program or activity per month. The courses were open to all UN member states and were announced through other foras as well. The increasing interest of participants can be seen from the overwhelming response by participation of approximately over 300 officials. The webinar targeted key areas like space science & technology, space legislation and space education and awareness.

Mr. Chairman,

ISNET being cognizant of the significant role that space technology & applications can play in achieving the SDGs, organized webinar on “Space for the Sustainable Development Goals: Implementation in ISNET Member States”. ISNET member states; Iran, Jordan, Pakistan and Turkey shared their respective initiatives for implementation of SDGs by utilizing space technologies. Director UNOOSA, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Secretary General APSCO and representative from Group on Earth Observation (GEO) also participated in the webinar. The event succeeded in projecting ISNET’s prowess in creating public awareness and outreach in SDG’s implementation through space science and technology.

Mr. Chairman,

To synergize the resource of COMSTECH’s networks and work towards a unified aim, ISNET Secretariat has taken initiative to propose joint projects with other inter Islamic network. Currently, ISNET has proposed joint projects with Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), Jordan. In this regard series of virtual meetings have been held between INWRDAM, ISNET and technical experts to discuss on the modalities.

Mr. Chairman

At ISNET, we attach great importance to the role of UNCOPUOS in facilitating international cooperation in the field of exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We would like to assure you that the Secretariat of ISNET stands ready to cooperate with this Committee and UNOOSA especially in capacity-building of, and joint projects among, its Member States. Furthermore, through this forum, we would also like to urge all Member States to continue to show their support to ISNET in achieving its aims.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates I thank you for your attention.
