

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor

On behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, I am honored to address the sixty-fourth session of the Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space, in my capacity as the Director of the Israel Space Agency.

Our special appreciation to UNOOSA Director, Dr. Simonetta Di Pippo and to the Chair of COPUOS, Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso, for their leadership and vision.

In this statement I will concentrate on the Israeli activity in the past year.

Mr. Chair,

Since the last COPUOS meeting, Israel and the entire world have been struck by the global COVID-19 pandemic. A pandemic that challenged all walks of life, in all sectors including the space eco-system. I am happy to share today that through creativity, adoption of new technology that enables remote cooperation and the support of our international partners, Israel Space Agency was able to meet all of its goals for the year with the exception of in person conferences.

Mr. Chair,

The ULTRASAT mission that was launched last year in cooperation with the DESY institute from Helmholtz Germany and NASA will finish its critical design review in Q4 2021 and is planned to be launched in 2024. ULTRASAT is a groundbreaking transient UV mission with a multinational cooperation scheme. This satellite aims to explore UV Transient phenomena, especially those created by post effects of gravitational waves and supernovas. We are in advance phases of including additional international members in the program to create a global scientific impact.

Another very exciting project underway is the Rakia/ AX-1 mission, introduced in November 2020 by the Ramon Foundation and the Israel Space Agency. In this mission, an Israeli national, Eytan Stibbe, will visit the International Space Station. He will dedicate his time onboard the ISS to promote science, technology and education. The Ramon Foundation and ISA recently examined experiments, from various fields, to be conducted on board the ISS, pending approval from NASA and its international partners.

In the process of establishing the international legal framework for this mission, we are studying the unique legal aspects of sending a private citizen to space. In this context, we also examine the extent to which the legal aspects of private space tourism should be developed. We

would like to express our appreciation to NASA, for the ongoing discussion on this matter.

Mr. Chair,

Israel has launched another groundbreaking technological and educational mission in 2020: Beresheet-2.

After Beresheet-1's success in 2019 of capturing the moon's orbit and reaching its surface, ISA and SpaceIL foundation have launched Beresheet-2 in December 2020.

Beresheet-2 entails a more challenging mission from Beresheet-1 and includes a spacecraft combined of one orbiter and two landers that will simultaneously reach the moon's surface. Israel supports SpaceIL's vision to inspire youth around the world and encourage them to pursue ambitious dreams. Therefore, in Beresheet-2 Israel is not only going back to the moon but it is also setting the bar higher.

Another emphasis in Beresheet-2 is the opportunity that it provides for international cooperation. In the framework of the mission, Israel plans to cooperate with other States and organizations on the design, engineering and primarily on the educational mission, and have the landing event as a significant moment that would unite people, and specifically children, from all over the world .

Mr. Chair,

Israel wishes to reiterate its appreciation to COPUOS and UNOOSA as the appropriate forum for all matters related to peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space.

At the same time, Israel attaches great importance to bilateral relations and collaborations. Israel continues to cultivate bilateral dialogues and cooperation with various states. In this context, we would like to mention the recent normalization of relations between Israel and COPUOS members, the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco. ISA is having working groups with UAESA to establish the ground for long-term cooperation and to promote the mutual interests of both countries. We are looking forward to the fruitful outcomes of these partnerships, including in space-related matters.

Additionally, ISA continues its cooperation with other space agencies, including the ongoing cooperation with NASA, ESA, ASI, CNES, DLR and others. Moreover, we have initiated technological cooperation with the Indian Space Research Organization ISRO, and we are continuously exploring more cooperation opportunities.

Furthermore, In November 2020, Israel was supposed to host the Mars Analog mission, performed by the Austrian forum. Unfortunately, this is one of the activities that were postponed due to COVID, but we intend to complete it during November 2021.

Mr. Chair,

We are pleased to announce that Israel has begun to promote its own national space legislation. While there is still a significant legislative process ahead, we have initiated discussions on different elements of a space law, in order to conclude an initial draft. The Israeli space legislation is expected to reflect international obligations and standards with respect to space activities.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Israel, I wish us all a fruitful and successful session. In this opportunity, I would like to share with you that in a few days, the Hebrew year will end and a new year in the Hebrew calendar will start. I wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy new year.

Thank you for your kind attention.