

Romania, Item 4
UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-fourth session
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Statement of the Delegation of Romania
Agenda item 4: General exchange of views

Distinguished delegates,

Mister Chairman Marius-Ioan Piso, let me express on behalf of the Delegation of Romania our satisfaction for seeing you in the main chair of this Committee and to assure you of the support of our delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate.

We would also express our appreciation to the Director of the Office, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and to Mr. Niklas Hedman and his very efficient team from the secretariat, in particular in those challenging circumstances.

Romania joins the statement of the European Union.

Romania, as an European Union (EU) country and an European Space Agency (ESA) member state, is participating to their programmes and applications. Romania is also a country having its own space agency - ROSA - and is developing its own space programme according to the national strategy and in concordance and complementarity with other international programs.

Presently, the national strategy of Romania is built around the concept of 3S (Three S's): the first S means Science and technology (including exploration), the second S is represented by Services (including access to space) and the third S comes from Security.

Mister Chairman, I will mention a few activities developed by Romania since the last session of the Committee.

Romania is participating in the European Space Agency's all major programs on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, Space transportation.

The Romanian Space Agency is participating in the European SST consortium, that has issued this February a tracking request for possible collision between Galileo 23 satellite and Ariane 44LP R/B rocket body. The Romanian scientists

responded to this request covering the entire period of this probable event. The common contribution of the European assets has confirmed the risk of collision and it was decided that a maneuver for GNSS satellite: GALILEO 23 was needed.

Romania is recognizing the critical character of the space infrastructure and in the national legislation the space systems are listed as critical infrastructures since more than ten years.

The Romanian Space Agency, in cooperation with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) organized so far a series of ten Conferences on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures, the most recent edition took place beginning of this August and was held in a hybrid mode in the Danube Delta. The advancements of this topics and the skills developed in Romania conducted to the establishment of a ROSA Centre on Space Critical Infrastructures and Security, which is also supporting the UN-SPIDER regional support centre in Bucharest for disaster management.

I am pleased to report that Romania is preparing a national law for space activities, to be in concordance with the UN Legal Principles and with the specific rules of the European Union and the European Space Agency. This legal frame will include also specific issues related to space traffic management, launch activities and critical space infrastructures. The internal process is advanced and it will be completed soon. Also, Romania has started the accession process to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer space.

An important item regards Space and climate change (item 11) and Romania continued developing tools for the monitoring and protection of our planet. I will mention the participation to the ESA mission ALTIUS which will measure both stratospheric ozone and other atmospheric trace gases that affect air quality. Also, ROSA is member of the Space Climate Observatory agreement since its establishment.

In view of the upcoming 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held this autumn in Glasgow, we would find useful to have the utilization of space technologies for monitoring climate change among the results of this conference.

An important item (item 13) regards the future role of the Committee. As the Romanian delegation mentioned in most of its statements, the role of the Committee should be compliant with the global space developments in all areas including security. The Committee as a unique multilateral forum for fostering dialogue and cooperation should maintain its adequate role in a world where

space became a distinct and solid area of human activity.

My delegation strongly supported the inclusion in the agenda of Item 14, Space exploration and innovation, as exploration became a major item for most of the space actors and we are supporting the extension of the content of this item in the areas of space science and technology.

Mister Chairman, my country supported the development of the Space2030 Agenda (item 15) within the United Nations system as we could see it as a necessity due to the major contributions of space to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Romanian delegation is contributing to the constructive deliberations for advancing the work towards finalization of this important agenda and implementation plan at our present session, and submission of the "Space2030" agenda to the General Assembly this autumn, to start working towards its implementation.

Also, my delegation welcomes the establishment of the Working group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and we offer to participate as needed, in order to reach consensus on the remaining guidelines.

Regarding Space Resources, my delegation supported the establishment of a dedicated working group. The Romanian Space Agency is a member of International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) and Romania is participating to the Artemis program as an ESA Member State and is also involved in the Mars Sample-return mission.

Thank you, Mister Chairman and distinguished delegates, for your attention.