



**Statement of the G-77 and China during the Fifty-eight session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 19-30 April 2021, delivered by H.E. Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Vienna, 19 April 2021

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our gratitude on your Chairmanship of the 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and assure you and the members of the bureau of our full support for this session. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and her dedicated staff in the Secretariat for the documentation and planning required for convening this meeting, particularly given the difficulties and exceptional circumstances posed by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Madam Chair,

2. The Group welcomes the increasing awareness of the potential, importance and impact that space activities have today, especially among the Group members.

3. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first period of sessions of COPUOS and the 60th anniversary of human spaceflight activities. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to express its high appreciation for the work that COPUOS and its two Subcommittees have carried out, as the main UN forum, in promoting international cooperation on exploration and peaceful use of outer space and on offering an appropriate environment.

4. The Group is willing to engage in the discussions of this Subcommittee to support measures to enhance international cooperation in space activities so as to make the benefits from space activities available to all the peoples of the world. Considering the high importance the international community attaches to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Group is of the opinion that on-going and future activities in this area should contribute to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.

5. The Group wishes to recall the established principles related to outer space activities, including the principle of exploration and use of outer space on a basis of equality, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the peaceful use of outer space.

Madam Chair,

6. Several of the issues to be discussed during this session are of paramount importance to developing countries. The Group believes that in order to achieve the main objectives of this sub-committee, it is important to concentrate our work in areas such as building and promotion of the technological capacities, transfer of technology favorable for developing countries, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and scientific-technological research in developing countries within the framework of international cooperation. The only way we can ensure that outer space remains sustainable and can

continue to deliver benefits to the whole of humankind is by working together through enhanced cooperation and collaboration.

7. The Group is of the opinion that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits in developing countries. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology needs to be promulgated through capacity building and access to technology on favorable terms for developing countries. In this vein, the Group strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures that could impede the access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries.

8. The Group believes that COPUOS must remain the forum for enhancement of cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, the Group calls upon UNOOSA and the Member States for greater support to enhance both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate such transfer of technology among nations.

9. The Group would also like to reiterate its call upon OOSA and the Member States to make more opportunities available for greater academic linkages, long-term fellowships and further collaboration among national and regional laboratories, UN research centers, other national and international institutions on space matters and institutions in developing countries.

Madam Chair,

10. Recalling the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) guidelines in 62nd session of COPUOS, it is important to bear in mind that this Achievement was the outcome of a multi-dimensional compromise and therefore has a delicate balance. This delicate balance should be preserved in the future relevant work regarding this subject, this work should also take into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries. The Group and its Member States look forward to the commencement of the Working Group on LTS and contributing to its work constructively.

11. Regarding space debris, the Group is of the view that the issue of placement of large and mega constellations and its implications is of priority and importance. This topic should continue to be treated as a priority with the view to mitigate the creation of space debris.

12. The Group is also of the view that, the deliberations on the issue of “Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation Plan” should take into consideration the contribution of space-based-systems to sustainable development and avoid any measures that would limit access to space by nations with emerging space capabilities. These processes should be given full consideration to the key concerns of developing countries and avoid setting up overly high standards or thresholds for space activities in a way that may hinder the enhancement of capacity building. In this regard, the Group emphasizes, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries.

Madam Chair,

13. We have indeed an adequate mechanism before us in COPUOS to address space related issues. We must recall that people worldwide count on the UN system to address global needs particularly the needs of the developing countries. In a spirit of cooperation and consensus, it is the hope of the Group of 77 and China that we will be able to address

these issues and to come up with the outcomes, which will contribute to global prosperity through the promotion of enhanced international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you Madam Chair.