

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE

**58TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 19-30 APRIL 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Singapore delegation, let me first express our appreciation to Director of UNOOSA Ms Simonetta Di Pippo and her team for their efforts in keeping up the good work of COPUOS despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to you Madam Chair for guiding the work of this Subcommittee. More than a year has passed since we were all physically gathered in Vienna for the 57th STSC. This pandemic has no doubt highlighted the importance of international cooperation, particularly in the field of science and technology. I am heartened that we have successfully convened the 58th session of the STSC in spite of these unprecedented circumstances.
2. Like many other countries, Singapore recognises the importance of preserving outer space as a peaceful global commons, so that we may harness its potential for the collective betterment and benefit of humankind. To this end, the STSC continues to play a crucial role in promoting the peaceful uses and long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS). Of note, the 21 voluntary LTS guidelines drafted by the STSC were successfully adopted by COPUOS and the UN General Assembly in 2019. Singapore welcomes this significant step, and looks forward to the early commencement of the work of the next Working Group.

Singapore's space-related activities

3. Outer space remains essential to many important civilian and government functions for Singapore, including urban planning, weather monitoring, telecommunications as well as peace support and disaster relief operations. We also see emerging economic opportunities in space-related activities, including in supporting our aviation and maritime industries, as we continue

to grow and develop our domestic space ecosystem. Today, Singapore is engaged at various steps of the value chain of space-related activities – from the design and manufacture of space components to the provision of satellite-based services.

4. To better support the growth of our domestic space ecosystem, we have committed more resources towards Singapore's Office for Space Technology & Industry (OSTIn), whose mandate we have expanded to that of a full-fledged national space office as of April 2020. OSTIn aims to nurture space technology development through investing in R&D, and to support industry development and innovation in the Singapore space sector. In particular, Singapore as a small island nation is committed to supporting efforts at tackling climate change through space-based remote imaging, sensing, and other applications. OSTIn also recently became the 30th member of the Space Climate Observatory (SCO).

Our continued commitment to the objectives of COPUOS

5. Madam Chair, against the backdrop of continued technological advances and the proliferation of national and private sector players in the global space landscape, I wish to reiterate Singapore's commitment to the objectives and purpose of COPUOS. We believe that small states and emerging space players too can play a constructive role in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. We will continue to support efforts at the UN and elsewhere to promote an open, inclusive and rules-based approach to the responsible use of space by all. Through bilateral exchanges and multilateral partnerships, we also look forward to forging stronger cooperation with partners in our region and beyond, to develop novel solutions for the benefit of humanity.

6. Thank you, Madam Chair.