

**Arrangement** UNISPACE+50 High Level Segment of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its 61<sup>st</sup> session

**When** 20-21. JUNI 2018

THE SPOKEN WORD IS VALID

Thank you, Madame Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Denmark.

First, thank you for chairing this session, and Director Di Pippo and her Office for the excellent work done in preparation for this unique meeting.

Madame Chair, excellences, ladies and gentlemen

Mr. Tommy Ahlers has recently been appointed new minister for the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science, and thus *inter alia* charged with the responsibility for the regulation of Danish activities in outer space and Denmark's international cooperation on activities in outer space affairs.

Previous to becoming a politician and minister overnight, Mr. Ahlers has a history of being a very successful and well known business entrepreneur in the technology sector.

Recently interviewed about his first month in office the minister stated with enthusiasm "*that everything I have done in this month has been a first*".

To Denmark, a very recent and new member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, addressing the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the committee and participating in the UNISPACE+50 commemora-

tions is also a first and we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all for the warm welcome to the committee.

[Denmark associates itself with the EU statement delivered yesterday and]

Confident that UNISPACE+50 will pave the way for a Space2030 agenda in accordance with the resolution on "Space as a driver of sustainable development", Denmark looks forward to many more "firsts" to come, contributing to the development and implementation of a Space2030 agenda.

On this note of "firsts" we welcome the pending applications of membership from both Ethiopia, Cyprus, Mauritius, Paraguay and Finland. With Norway and Sweden already being members we look forward to the possibility of strengthening Nordic cooperation in space related matters within the committee.

Naturally, we also look very much forward to contribute to and cooperate with the committee, its secretariat and all member nations in our common

efforts to pursue global governance and long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

[Madame Chair,]

Allow me also to touch briefly on the state of affairs in Denmark on space related matters.

Denmark has been a spacefaring nation since 1999 with the launch of the Ørsted satellite.

In recent years, Denmark has experienced an increased focus on space from both research and industry.

A recent example of this has been the construction of the space instrument ASIM, also known as the Space Storm Hunter, which is a climate observatory for the International Space Station.

[Danish researchers and industry have had leading roles in the development and construction of this instrument.]

As it flew over the Indonesian coast of Sumatra on an April night this year, lightning from a thunderstorm reached the upper layers of the atmosphere and its light show was captured by the Space Storm Hunter.

The images – which can be seen on ESA's homepage - are surprisingly similar to a sequence captured by the Danish national and ESA astronaut Andreas Mogensen from the International Space Station in 2015.



Thanks to his discovery in 2015 today we know how to interpret the images that the Space Storm Hunter is providing us with.

[The data will allow scientists to investigate the phenomenon of the so-called Elves, which are the highest of all the 'transient luminous events' known to date, and distinguish between layers of lightning and other high-energy discharges.]

[Madame Chair,]

Denmark is a founding member of the European Space Agency (ESA) and has relied on the agency with regard to prioritizing technology development and space activities.

Now, due to the growing number of Danish space activities, the field of space law is becoming increasingly important in Denmark.

We are convinced that capacity-building in space law can help promote the development of relevant regulation and international cooperation in space activities.

With the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education as newly appointed Danish National Point of Contact for the European Centre for Space Law the way has been paved for increased promotion of space law in Denmark.

[Madame Chair,]

Denmark has signed and ratified four UN treaties on outer space and in 2016 Denmark's first space law entered into force.

The law establishes the framework for Danish space activities to take place on a regulated and safe basis through approval and supervision of activities in outer space, registration of space objects and clarity of the liability of operators and others for damage caused by space objects.

We have also recently begun work on possible new regulation regarding non-governmental rocket launch activities in Denmark whether capable of reaching outer space or lesser altitudes. We are therefore also looking into regulation of rocket activities that fall short of the present scope of appli-

cation of our new space law. Any input from other countries about their experience in this area of space related law continue to be most welcome.

Madame Chair and attendees,

Thank you very much for your attention.

Denmark looks very much forward to the future work on the development and implementation of a 2030 Space Agenda that will hopefully lead to an UNISPACE+100 which - like the present gathering - will commemorate the continued peaceful use of outer space available to all nations.