



KENYA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 4 DURING THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) DELIVERED BY MR. HILLARY KIPKOSGEY, DIRECTOR GENERAL, KENYA SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to begin by thanking you **Mr. Omran Sharaf** for your able chairing of the 66th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

We also thank the Acting Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), **Mr Niklas Hedman**, and the Secretariat, for their commitment and tireless efforts in organizing this and other similar meetings in the past.

Kenya joins other members in welcoming Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the Committee and wishes to encourage other States, particularly those in Africa, to consider joining the Committee and contribute to the discourse so that no one is left behind in maximizing the benefits derived from outer space activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya aligns itself with the statement by the Africa Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. Kenya recognizes and appreciates the unique international forums provided by UNOOSA through COPUOS and its Subcommittees, for the role they play in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, and democratizing outer space.

2. My delegation also appreciates the Committee's capacity-building efforts in the field of space science and technology and their applications, as well as space law and policy, towards realization of the "Space2030" Agenda by addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

3. Kenya further appreciates the role played by UNOOSA in promoting space science and technology in emerging and developing space faring nations. I am happy to report that Kenyan institutions have greatly benefitted from three tracks of "Access to Space for All" triangular collaboration initiatives - the Satellite Development Track, the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track and the Space Exploration Track. It is



through actively participating in these initiatives that Kenya has gained significant experience and is making steady progress in the exploitation of space technologies in its socioeconomic development activities. Our successful development and launch of Taifa-1 Sat in collaboration with our partners is a testament to the fruits of UNOOSA capacity-building initiatives targeted at emerging and developing space faring nations.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Kenya is also grateful to UNOOSA and the French Government for the technical support received through the first tailor-made Technical Advisory Mission for Kenya, organized jointly with the Kenya Space Agency and held from 18 to 20 April 2023 in Nairobi. The Technical Advisory Mission was aimed at developing local capacity of a multi-sectoral team comprising more than 50 experts drawn from governmental and non-governmental entities as well as academia and private sector actors, on international space law and governance issues including space policy and regulatory frameworks.

5. The Technical Advisory Mission was timely as Kenya is currently reviewing its Kenya Space Policy 2016 which defined the guiding principles, goals, objectives and the institutional framework that birthed the Kenya Space Agency. The current review process of the Policy is aimed at crafting a new policy framework that meets Kenya's national interests and development priorities while taking cognizance of modern developments and trends in the peaceful uses of outer space, to include contemporary issues such as norms of responsible behaviour and the guidelines on long term sustainability of outer space.

6. Kenya is also developing its legal and regulatory framework around exploitation and utilization of outer space, grounded on the foundational international space law. It will also provide predictable procedures for authorization, licensing and continuous monitoring of national space activities, registration of objects, liability and insurance, as well as other best practices.

7. The Technical Advisory Mission provided useful insights and international perspectives on international space law and best practices from international space experts and greatly added value to our policy and legislation drafting processes. Arising from this, Kenya is willing and ready to share with other emerging and developing space faring nations, its experiences and insights on space policy and legislation making.



Mr. Chairman

8. In conclusion, I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community on win-win basis for the promotion and utilization of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development at national, regional and international levels.

Thank you.