

Philippines, Item 4

66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Philippine Statement

Mister Chair,

The Philippines extends its appreciation to you, Mister Chair Omran Sharaf of United Arab Emirates, and to the dedicated staff at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), for the successful conduct of the 65th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) last year and the excellent preparations for this year. Since this is the first time that our delegation will speak at this session, we express our gratitude for the opportunity to be physically present to participate in the proceedings. Please be assured of my delegation's full cooperation and active participation in this 66th Session of the UN COPUOS.

Recognizing the importance of utilizing the relevant platforms and mechanisms of diplomacy and international cooperation, our country has been actively navigating opportunities from the global space community as we continue to deepen and strengthen our space science and technology ecosystem.

We signed cooperation agreements with the UAE Space Agency and entered into agreements with Space for Climate Observatory, Philippine-American Educational Foundation, Hokkaido University, and last month with Argentina National Space Activities Commission. These agreements cover cooperation in capacity-building activities, research and development, scientific missions on space explorations, as well as the promotion of space industry and industrial cooperation.

As we support the efforts toward the universalization of outer space treaties, my delegation wishes to reiterate our declaration during the 62nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee, that we have received support from other relevant Philippine government agencies for the ratification of Liability Convention and accession to the Registration Convention. Hence, we are nearing the ratification status of the UN space treaties. Through these treaties, we signify our strong commitment to global norms and principles that strengthen our institutions and enable good governance through space activities.

It is also my honor to inform you and distinguished delegates that our country will launch the National Registration System for Space Objects. The online registration system will serve as the national database for space launch activities and registration of space objects. Through this national effort, we would be able to support the development of legal systems, norms, policies, and programs pertaining to outer space activities.

The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) also developed a children's book that aims to introduce UN outer space treaties at the primary education level. Through this book, our hope is to encourage the country's next generation to explore, develop, and pursue interest in space science and other allied fields responsibly and sustainably.

Mister Chair and distinguished delegates,

The Philippines recognizes its role in promoting the use of space data to support strategies to address the intensifying adverse impacts of climate change and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Thus, we are pleased to inform you that the National Copernicus Support Action Program for the Philippines or CopPhil has been launched. Co-implemented by the PhilSA, Department of Science and Technology, and European Space Agency, CopPhil complements current national space data mobilization efforts by strengthening the utilization of Copernicus Earth Observation data for Disaster Risk Reduction Management and climate action in the Philippines and our region. PhilSA will facilitate access and distribution of the Earth Observation data through the Copernicus mirror site to be established in the Philippines. We thank the European Union for bringing this program to the Philippines.

As an emerging space capable nation, the Philippines believes that we can contribute to the effort in ensuring the sustainability of outer space activities through the Space2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We will elaborate further on our efforts in our statements for Agenda Items 8, 10, and 15.

In closing Mr. Chair, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to preserve the peaceful and responsible use of outer space for the benefit of all humanity and as a matter of national importance. We believe that through cooperation and collaboration between and among the members of the global space community, we will push the frontiers of knowledge and humankind towards a safe, secure, and sustainable outer space for the benefit of the current and future generation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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