

**The Slovak Republic**  
**Agenda item 4 “General exchange of views”**

**66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**(COPUOS)**

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Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

**Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union** and in our national capacity we would like to add the following:

In October 2022, **Slovakia became an Associate member of the European Space Agency** and its membership will last for an initial duration of 7 years. In this context, the “European Space Agency Day in Slovakia” took place in March this year.

**The main purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the importance of space activities** and enable participants to share experiences and examples of good practices from the successful implementation of space activities. At the same time, it also provided opportunities to exchange information and share ideas with representatives of scientific, research, technological, and educational fields.

With over 40 active companies in the space industry and more than 50 other companies with strong potential to enter the sector, Slovakia is a growing force in the space economy (both upstream - spacecraft and ground-based telescope components, as well as nanosatellites, and downstream - software applications using Galileo or Copernicus data).

In 2021, Slovakia launched into orbit its second satellite cubesat **GRB Alpha, the first satellite of its kind in the world** - dedicated to gamma-ray burst observations and thus the smallest and unique astrophysical space observatory detecting GRB. Nanosatellite GRB Alpha observed in 2022 exceptionally bright long gamma-ray burst without saturation (**one of the most powerful cosmic explosions since the beginning of human civilization**) when it detected the **GRB221009A**, providing unique measurements of its peak luminosity. It has successfully demonstrated that GRB monitoring could efficiently be performed by nanosatellites, complementing large astrophysical missions, and is paving the way for future constellations of GRB monitoring nanosatellites.

Furthermore, Slovakia is currently in the process of drafting a **national space law**. This law will set out legal frameworks and regulations of space activities. Meantime, we have established a temporary **Register of space objects** which serves as a means of tracking and monitoring space objects launched from Slovakia or registered to Slovak entities.

Last but not least, Slovakia sees huge merit in keeping the issue of **dark and quiet skies** on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. DQS is of special importance for Slovakia,

as the Comenius University, in cooperation with the Vienna University in Austria, is investigating the negative effects that light pollution from artificial objects, such as satellites and space debris, could have on the quality of night sky and consequently on the data quality of the ground-based astronomical observatories and their performance.

Besides, **the Slovak Astronomical Society** has **become an affiliate member** of the **International Astronomical Union Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference** and will support activities of the Centre in the field of public engagement in this matter.

Further, on the eve of this session (the 30<sup>th</sup> of May) Slovakia organized **the fourth edition of Emerging Space**, the leading European space industry conference, focused on emerging space ecosystems. Its main purpose was to help emerging space ecosystems grow and become valuable members of the global space community. Slovakia considers this to be a topic of great importance bringing added value to both, new and well-established, space players in contributing to the process of democratization of space broadening access to space technology and the benefits for all.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its commitment to the peaceful use of outer space and is looking forward to fruitful discussions during the Committee.

Thank you.