

**Azerbaijan Item 4**  
(General exchange of views)

**Honorable Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates!**

Thanks for the granted opportunity to make the speech.

Azerbaijan continues engaging in space research and development and has already contributed to the outer space activity.

To date, Azerbaijan dynamically develops its space program. More than a decade has passed since our very first satellite – Azerspace-1 was successfully launched into orbit. While Azerspace-1 marked the start of long-lasting and productive relations with our local and international partners, it also symbolises the continuation of the Azerbaijan space legacy.

Now, Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos) is positioning itself towards becoming the business and space hub in the region. During these years, the Azerbaijan Space Agency's main activity, along with commercial services, has been of state and public importance for the country. This includes contributing to social and economic development, supporting scientific research and participating in the international space initiatives.

The continuously evolving space activities give rise to the necessity for national legislation. In this regard, the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan has received the draft law on "Space activity" from the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev within his legislative initiative. The draft Law is fairly concise and consists of 24 articles grouped in 6 chapters. This draft Law determines the legal, economic and organizational framework of space activity in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the general requirements for commercial business activity in the space industry, and regulates relations related to national activity in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. The draft Law outlines basic principles of space activity such as use of outer space for peaceful purposes; protection of national interests; efficient use of space resources. We would like especially to emphasize that this draft Law on "Space activity" recognizes

safety of space activities and industry. Reducing the space debris impact on the environment is also suggested as a guiding principle of space activity. Law provides legal vision towards minimizing space debris which threatens long-term sustainability of space. We would like to highlight the importance of protection of the outer space against space debris and international recognition of this issue. Although several guidelines were formulated in this regard, none of them is legally binding. In order to ensure a safe and sustainable use of outer space, we hope for adoption of legally binding requirements on space debris mitigation under international law.

Furthermore, with a sense of pride and happiness, I am honoured to inform you that this year on October 2-6<sup>th</sup> the International Astronautical Congress will be held in Baku, the capital of my country, Azerbaijan. This event has the great importance for us and the whole world space community.

In 2023, the global space community will convene in Baku at the International Astronautical Congress once again, exactly 50 years after Baku hosted the 24th IAC and became the first and the only city in the region to do so. This, certainly, is a major occasion in the history of the space industry development in Azerbaijan.

We firmly believe that IAC 2023 will enable us to demonstrate our country as the contributor to the development of outer space activity in the world. It will also support establishment of closer ties with foreign space agencies, companies and organizations as well as will guide and direct the energy of the young generation towards the reliable and intellectual usage and further exploration of the outer space.

Thank you!