

## **Statement by Norway to the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under Agenda Item 15: “Space 2030 Agenda”**

Chair,

Norway is a long-standing, firm supporter of the United Nations. We are considering several ways of contributing to the sustainable development goals. In that regard, we view the Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation Plan as a highly relevant tool.

As previously reported to the Committee, the responsible use and protection of oceans and marine environments is vital for Norway and other coastal states. In order to combat transnational organized crime in fisheries, Norway continues its work under the Blue Justice Initiative. By using microsatellites to track fishing in the waters of developing countries, we will strengthen the ability of developing countries to discover and counter illegal fishing. Using Norwegian space technology and competence in digitalization processes, we aim to make the initiative even more effective.

Norway promotes open and free Earth Observation data policies in the framework of Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) data program and the EU’s Copernicus programme for global monitoring for environment and security.

The NICFI Satellite data program support is not only making satellite data available but is also supporting the users with capacity building. The training is provided to users in and outside tropical forest countries.

The Norwegian Space Agency also supports various public and private Earth Observation initiatives in support of the SDGs.

As a maritime and Arctic nation, Norway aims to use space for the benefit of sustainable development in the High North and the Arctic. To this end, we will offer maritime surveillance and satellite communication in the area. Through launching two satellites to high elliptical orbits, Norway will offer mobile broadband coverage to civilian and military users in the Arctic. Launches are planned for 2024.

Regarding space weather, Norway monitors and shares relevant observations for non-commercial use with ESA, the World Data Center and others. Space weather services are freely available from relevant national entities, including the Norwegian Center for Space Weather. Norwegian experts are also contributing to space weather activities in the World Meteorological Organization.

As for registration practices, Norway is party to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space of 1974. Currently the Norwegian Space Agency maintains the national registry for space objects. The registry is, however, planned to be transferred to the Civil Aviation Authority, which will be our new national authority to oversee space activities, from this year.

Chair,

In conclusion, the implementation of the 21 Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space is of high priority for Norway. We are presently in the process of considering how best to implement the guidelines on a national level.

We will continue working on contributions to the Space2030 Agenda, and will report to the Committee accordingly.

Thank you, Chair.