

***APSCO, Item 4***  
**STATEMENT OF APSCO**  
**The 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific-Technical Sub-Committee**  
**of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**(COPUOS)**

**Honorable Madam Chair and distinguished Delegates**

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), it is a privilege to update all the distinguished delegates about the APSCO's activities performed in 2023.

**Distinguished Delegates**

I take this opportunity to express the support to Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, we hope all your future endeavors to be successful in leading this organization. Likewise, I want to extend the greetings of the Secretary General of APSCO, Madam Yu Qi, and all the international staff. APSCO appreciates the continuous efforts of the Director of UNOOSA and the Secretary of the Subcommittee for organizing this session.

As reported last year, we have been working hard to implement the second 10-year Strategic Plan, giving preference to the development of the industry in all member states by strengthening their competitiveness.

Unlike the most powerful space organizations in the world, APSCO has a unique privilege related to the wide coverage area of the Asia-Pacific region. This advantage in coverage became huge thanks to the inclusion of new Observer members: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences (AUASS). On the other hand, dealing with the long distances that separate APSCO member states is one of the main challenges. However, we make the best of it by creating powerful space application networks to monitor space from different sites around the world.

In line with the APSCO strategic plan, the five-year Project Implementation Plan (2021-2025) covering fields of Space Science, Space Technology and Space Applications, has been increased by three new projects namely, the Linku Project, led by Peru, the Vision-based close-proximity orbital operation simulation platform, led by Thailand and the Industrial mineral prospection using remote sensing project, led by Pakistan.

In 2023, we run six big projects and are currently implementing 20 new ones.

## **Madam Chair and distinguished Delegates**

With the aim of sharing space-derived data, and promoting the application of satellite remote sensing, the APSCO Data Sharing Service Platform (DSSP), is currently running four projects related to Flood and Wildfire Monitoring, Warning System and Forest Cover for the Evaluation of Amazonian. In 2023, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch of this platform included eight new projects, focusing on climate change, agriculture assessment, and natural disasters.

In the area of disaster monitoring and management, APSCO counts with the Charter-like emergency response mechanism, providing promptly satellite imagery resources from member states as an early response to monitor assessment and providing vital support for rescue operations after the tragedy, such as the last earthquake in Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. In line with this, last year, an international symposium on the utilization of aerospace applications for earthquake early warning and quick response was organized in Istanbul, Türkiye with the participation of UNESCAP, focusing on lessons learned from the last earthquake in that country. This event was supported by the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office and the United Nations Office for Outer Space, UNOOSA.

Regarding the APSCO/UNOOSA Joint Technical Workshop on National Space Legislation, last year, APSCO organized one-to-one meetings with each member state separately, explaining the e-learning system of Phase-II and, as part of the implementation of Phase-III, workshops were carried out in Vienna, providing practical case studies and detailed interaction between experts, consultants and UNOOSA officials to provide practical guidance in the drafting of national space legislation.

## **Honorable Madam. Chair**

Let me now explain the biggest networks we have built in member States:

- GNSS Monitoring and Assessment Service Network.
- Network for Ionosphere Modeling through Study of Radio Wave Propagation.
- Seismo-Ionospheric Observation and Application Platform (SOAP)
- Asia-Pacific Space Science Observatories (APSSO)

Regarding deep space exploration, in April 2023, APSCO, in collaboration with the China National Space Agency (CNSA) organized the 1st Workshop of a Joint Study on the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) in China, where experts from all APSCO member States participated. The purpose of APSCO ILRS is to design and implement our independent APSCO lunar research station, connected to the main ILRS station. In addition, CNSA opened opportunities for APSCO to participate in the Change E-6, Change E-7 and Change E-8 missions.

In response, scientific payloads and one CubeSat from Pakistan and Thailand were selected to be piggyback, while submitted proposals for the Change E-8 mission are currently under evaluation.

**Honorable Madam Chair,**

Under APSCO's Degree Education Program, in 2023, three Master's and two PhD's students were recruited. So far, 195 Master degree and 25 PhD students from all member states have graduated. Moreover, three onsite short training courses and four distance trainings, were successfully conducted. In total, more than 220 participants from 11 countries showed high interest in enrolling and have benefited.

For hands-on training, in 2023 APSCO successfully closed out the Student Small Satellite (SSS) Project. In this training one microsatellite (SSS-1) and two cubesats (SSS-2A and SSS-2B) were designed, produced and launched into orbit successfully. One of the cubesats completed its nominal operation lifetime and SSS-1 and SSS-2B are still operational. The project also included several short trainings, master degrees for 25 students, and three summer camps for 40 students each.

In the field of education, a sustainable mechanism to improve the function of the current APSCO Education and Training Center to achieve more results through the use of cutting-edge technological resources will allow Member States to gain more benefits from the capacity-building programs of APSCO.

Finally, the APSCO CubeSat Competition was kicked off in September 2023, to enhance space science awareness among university students and training in practical space endeavors, and 19 teams from member states presented their mission proposals.

**Honorable Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

APSCO and its Members States are strongly committed to supporting the work of COPUOS and open for broader cooperation.

**I thank you all for your attention**