

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of
Morocco To International Organizations
in Vienna



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى المنظمات الدولية
فيينا

Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered by

**H.E Azzeddine FARHANE, Ambassador, Permanent Representative at the
61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United
Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

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**Check Against Delivery*

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Madam Chair,

1. At the outset, my delegation commends **Ms. Aarti Holla Maini** for her opening statement, and extend to her our warm welcomes as the new Director, along with **Dr. Driss El Hadani** as the Senior Advisor of UNOOSA, we anticipate fruitful collaboration for the peaceful use of outer space.
2. My delegation extends sincere gratitude to Ambassador **Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay**, for his effective Chairmanship during the 59th and 60th sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.
3. My delegation is pleased to see you, **Ms. Ulpia Botezatu from Romania**, presiding over the 63rd session of the Scientific Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). We reaffirm our full support and cooperation in contributing to this session.
4. Furthermore, Moroccan delegation express her gratitude to the dedicated Secretariat staff for their diligent preparation in documentation and planning for this meeting.
5. My delegation associates itself with the statements of the G77 and China, as well as the African Group, and would like to make the following comments on its national capacity.

Madam Chair

6. Morocco remains committed to the principles of the 1967 Treaty, ensuring fair and rational use of outer space, non-appropriation, and non-militarization, including the moon and celestial bodies, and believes that peaceful use of Outer Space is crucial for long-term sustainability of outer space activities, expressing our commitment to responsible and sustainable space activities.
7. In this regard, my delegation commends the dedicated work undertaken by COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. It highly values their contribution and underscores the pivotal role of COPUOS as the principal UN platform in advancing international cooperation for the exploration, exploitation, and peaceful applications of outer space.
8. From the same standpoint, Morocco believes that the transformative impact of rapid space access, the proliferation of orbital objects, the increasing prominence of the private space sector, and commitments to distant space exploration, requires political commitment, shared responsibility and enhanced governance for sustainable innovation, in accordance with the process of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
9. My delegation advocates international scientific cooperation to fully exploit space potential, particularly in resource monitoring, disaster management, and equitable access to space technologies, also encourages international cooperation to develop standards for reducing space debris and ensuring sustainable space use.
10. In this regard, Morocco reiterates its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, which emphasizes the importance of enhancing capacity building, especially in developing countries, to support Space 2030 Agenda implementation.

Madam Chair,

11. Aware of the importance of technologies as a vector of economic growth, Morocco has made a firm pledge to the path of mastering advanced technologies and their integration into all economic sectors, with regard to the importance of space technologies as a vector of economic growth.
12. Morocco's space activities have undergone notable development after the launch, in November 2017 and November 2018, of the two satellites Mohammed VI A. and B. These satellites have been registered and the Royal Center for Space Remote Sensing is the focal point.

13. This achievement as well as Morocco's initiatives through its strategic development plans indicate very clearly that our country has made space technology tools a real asset and a strategic lever within the framework of the socio-economic development of our country.
14. The launch of these satellites underscores Morocco's proactive approach to utilizing space capabilities for addressing real-world challenges and contributing to global efforts in sustainable development.
15. In this context, it's worth mentioning that the Mohammed VI satellite system were useful once again during the devastating earthquake which hit my country on September 8, 2023. Indeed, the satellite images provided by the Mohammed VI A and B satellites were a considerable contribution to supporting national institutions dealing with the risk management. Indeed, my delegation would like to thank the International Charter on Major Risks for supporting Morocco during this disaster by making Very High-Resolution images available to the Moroccan authorities.

Madam Chair,

16. Morocco considers that strengthening national capacity in the field of space is crucial, especially the organization of advanced training in space science and technology, regional workshops and short-term courses. In this regard, a specific program is implemented annually to develop or reinforce skills in the space domain, particularly in the operational use of space technologies in the service of sustainable development.
17. In this context, and in partnership with renowned international institutions, a training program on the theme of space oceanography and its applications has been organized for national researchers. Moreover, in 2024, CRST plans to conduct a national/international workshop on the contribution of space technologies to natural disaster management.
18. At the regional level, it's worth mentioning that cooperation with African countries constitutes a fundamental pillar in the Moroccan national strategy for the development of space activities. Several international or bilateral agreements have been completed or are in progress for capacity building and technology transfer in the space field and which remain necessary tools to meet the needs of developing countries.
19. Morocco continues to support the African regional center for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the UN, which is located in Rabat, with a view to contributing to the strengthening of the national capacities of African countries in science and space technology. 79 beneficiaries from 10 African countries participated in the Post-Graduate Training - Master in Space Sciences and Technologies (STE) in 2022 -2023 in the sectors of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems and Global Navigation Systems by Satellite.
20. Within this regional approach, Morocco has started discussions with Senegal to promote scientific and technical exchanges for the strengthening of the space capacities of the two countries.

Madam Chair,

21. Morocco remains convinced, more than ever, that the use and exploitation of Outer Space must be operated in a peaceful and sustainable manner in the interest of all countries, and commits to continuing its cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, in favor of the peaceful use of outer space for scientific, technical and socio-economic purposes.
22. In closing, Moroccan delegation is determined to support the success of this session, guided by the Vienna consensus spirit that has consistently prevail during our proceedings.

Thank you

