

Statement by

the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before the Sixty-first Session of

the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

under Agenda Item 4, entitled: UNISPACE+50 High-level Segment

20 -29 June 2018

“In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful”

**Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am very pleased to address the UNISPACE+50 High-level Segment. I would like to congratulate you Madam Chair on your assumption as well as the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for their successful endeavours within the past three years in preparation for this historic event. Please, be rest assured of the constructive and cooperative engagement of my delegation in discharge of your mandate.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to appreciate all the efforts made so far by UNOOSA in promoting the development of international cooperation and space policy in order to harness the benefits of space science, technology and applications for all Member States. In view of this, the Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly determined to engage actively with other Member States on the follow-up of the UNISPACE+50 achievements.

Nowadays, It seems that access to space data and technology is becoming more open and less costly; however, the gap between countries that have developed space-related capabilities and technologies on one hand, and those that have not on the other, the so-called “space divide”, is unfortunately widening. The “space divide” manifests itself in many aspects of space-related activity, for example, in the use of data or the launch of satellites. Thus, there is a need to effectively address the “space divide” by facilitating access to space through strengthening existing opportunities and creating new ones for the most disadvantaged countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

Nothing in the agenda and work of the COPUOS should be construed in a way to adding any obstacle, convey a discriminatory approach, or undermine the importance and necessity of cooperation among countries with different stages of space capabilities, to the detriment of the developing countries in implementing their space activities.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the framework of the UNOOSA, my delegation is firmly of the view that any mechanisms should be based on the reality of space technology developments, fully accommodate the concerns of all State Parties without any discrimination, and follow the principle of consensus.

Madam Chairperson,

Now, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of priority 6.

Considering the pervasive and widespread impact of climate change, it is warranted that under the umbrella of the UNOOSA, all Member States are provided with the detailed information of the studies on climate change using space technology. Such information needs to include all phases of the study, including inputs, models and the final results.

As one of the regional support offices of UN-SPIDER, the Islamic Republic of Iran has already been active in providing best practices and E-Learning contents and has presented its methodology in natural disasters such as drought. Iran is also currently is ready to present its approach in monitoring sand and dust storm and declares its willingness to further cooperate with the UNOOSA on capacity building.

Accordingly, it is also highly recommended that "Monitoring Climate Change Using Space Technology" be included among UNOOSA training priorities.

Distinguished Delegates,

Presently, there is an urgency to generate an early warning and monitoring system for sand and dust storm (SDS), its source identification and aerosol concentration measurement in the Middle East. The Islamic Republic of Iran

expresses its readiness to develop the above-mentioned regional system in cooperation with the UNOOSA.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

In accordance with principle 12 of the Remote Sensing resolution, as soon as the primary data and the processed data concerning the territory under its jurisdiction are produced, the sensed State shall have access to them on a non-discriminatory basis and on reasonable cost terms. However, unfortunately, not all countries are provided with the dividends of this entitlement, and we urge all States to observe the commitments they are making under different instruments.

Madam Chairperson,

As stated on previous occasions, small satellites are now serving as a steppingstone and foothold for many developing States' space programmes with limited funds to join in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. It is well known that they have a wide range of applications and provide the potential to meet the needs of developing societies in various areas, such as education, telecommunications and disaster mitigation. That is the main reason as to why these countries are involved in small satellites activities ranging from designing, manufacturing, launching and operating them. In this respect, my delegation is of the view that no restrictions should be imposed on developing countries in using the small satellites for peaceful purposes.

To conclude, Madam Chairperson, assuring you of the full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, let's pool up our minds and deeds together in achieving our common goals of serving mankind through peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you for your attention