

Republic of Korea Statement

I . Introduction

Madam Chair, delegates from around the world,

We are gathered in Vienna today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first UN conference on the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The aim of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is to improve life of all humanity, under the vision ‘no one will be left behind.’

I know we share the same vision. Space technology must also improve safety and quality of life for mankind.

I would like to express my gratitude to OOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo(씨모네파 디 피포) for hosting such a meaningful conference, and to Chair Rosa Maria of COPUOS for presiding over the meeting.

The Republic of Korea would like to thank the member countries of COPUOS for the completion of the UNISPACE+50 Resolution (A/AC.105/L.313). I am certain that the resolution will strengthen international cooperation of the space community for responding to both regional and global challenges.

II . Korea and Space Development

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

27 years have passed since Korea first joined the United Nations and 24 years since we became a member of COPUOS.

South Korea today shows the example how much remarkable benefits science, technology and innovation have brought to mankind. In only a half-century, a war-ravaged, impoverished Korea successfully transformed itself from an aid recipient to a donor – thanks to development based on science and technology. And after taking its next step to space activities, Korea has been making great strides in various sectors, such as communications, climate, disaster and security.

In February, my government established the 3rd Masterplan for Space Development and Promotion(2018~2022), and renewed our long-term vision and goals. Korea's space development projects will improve public safety and quality of life not only in Korea, but also for all mankind. We will also promote policies to support the development and innovation in Korean emerging space industry.

Based on Korea's experiences on space development, today I would like to share my thoughts on addressing global challenges through space development, in particular specific measures we can take in relation to the thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50.

III. Addressing Global Challenges through Space Development

First, we need to actively use space technology in building a more resilient society.

Today's era of sustainable development requires the global community to be more resilient against transnational challenges.

Climate change and disasters are becoming more frequent and destructive, posing a serious threat to our quality of life. To this end, Korea is seeking geographical, marine, land, disaster and environmental solutions through the GOLDEN Solution Project. Our programs for analyzing green algae concentration in fresh water, oil leaks in oceans and monitoring sea winds and waves clearly show Korea's determination in tackling these issues. Two additional units of geostationary satellite are being developed to improve precision of weather and sea observation.

Countries need to work together to strengthen global capabilities for detecting and countering space objects that can be potential threats. Currently, there are around 20,000 pieces of space debris in orbit, each larger than a 10cm softball. Under the Aerospace Development Promotion Act, Korea is building a comprehensive system that will respond to space threats at the national level. OWL-Net, to be launched in 2019, will be also used to contribute to global efforts to detect space objects. And to improve our ability in dealing with NEO (Near-Earth Object) threats, we are actively participating in the COPUOS science and technology working group through IWAN and SMPAG activities.

Second, we need to promote regulations to make sure space technology contributes to sustainable development.

Every year, COPUOS is joined by more and more countries, private companies and NGOs that use outer space.

As the outer space becomes growingly congested and competitive, strengthening transparency and confidence-building

measures is more crucial than ever. In this sense, the Republic of Korea took part in and contributed to the UN Government Group of Experts(GGE) on Transparency and Confidence – Building Measures(TCBMs) and the report adopted in the UN General Assembly in 2013. We also took part in the joint proposal of Part A, the Long-Term Sustainability(LTS) guideline for outer space.

Taking note of the importance of widening common understanding on the outer space activities, Korea will actively participate in relevant discussions, such as the agreement for the LTS guideline in the 61st COPUOS meeting, the working group for LTS implementation after UNISPACE+50 and the UN GGE established pursuant to the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/250.

Third, we need to provide a well-designed capacity building program for achieving inclusive growth.

Human capital fostered through science and technology education serves as the foundation for nurturing innovative talent. To achieve sustainable development, developing countries must implement space technology education programs fitting with their own national circumstances.

Korea contributes to future technology capacity development through the KARIST program. Since 2010, we have invited researchers from developing countries to share our experiences on satellite production, satellite video usage and commercial use

of remote sensing. 2019 will mark the 10th anniversary of KARIST. In its celebration, Korea is planning to hold a joint workshop with UNOOSA.

IV. Closing remarks

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

The task remaining before us is to build a healthier and safer global society where the benefits of space technology can be shared by all. Meeting the task requires a holistic approach – a whole-of-government approach that engages all policy-makers at the national level and a whole-of-society approach that includes all stakeholders.

As the Austrian saying goes, “Erfolg hat mehr als einen Vater (에 풀크 해트 미어 알쓰 아이는 파터 ([ɛ afɔlk] [hat] [me : a] [als] [ainən] [fa : tə])) (success has more than one father)”. To achieve progress in space technology development, we too must work together. Korea promises to continuously take part in the efforts of the global community. Thank you. /END/