

**Italian Statement on the occasion of the UNISPACE + 50 - High Level
Segment of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space
Vienna, 20 – 21 June 2018**

Thank you Madame Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to congratulate you upon your election to the Chairmanship of the Committee and to congratulate Mr. André Joao Rypl, (Brazil) for the election for 2019.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation to Director Di Pippo and the Outer Space Office, for the excellent preparation for UNISPACE +50.

Madame Chair,

Italy would like to emphasize that UNISPACE +50 represents a great opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen the role of COPUOS, as the only global space body devoted to promote cooperation and space activities in favor of sustainable development for the benefit of the whole humanity and, in particular, of the developing Countries, according to the objectives set by the UN Agenda 2030.

Moreover, Italy welcomes the endorsement of the resolution "*Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development*" and appreciates the proposal to establish a Working Group for the elaboration of a "Space 2030" agenda, accompanied by a work plan.

From the very beginning, Italy has been involved in the preparation process of UNISPACE +50, promoting a series of activities in line with the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 – and in particular with objective 4 (*quality education*).

At the 59th session of COPUOS, Italy presented the **Open Universe initiative**, which aims to make the scientific data regarding the observation of the Universe more accessible and transparent, not only to the scientific community, but to the whole society. This initiative, included in the preparatory work of UNISPACE +50, has been and continues to be supported by Italy and other partner Countries, through meetings, seminars and presentations. We strongly encourage the participation of all Countries to the initiative.

Moreover, the Italian Space Agency promoted the initiative of the ***International Space Forum (ISF)*** – under the auspices of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and with the participation of UNOOSA – which aims to establish a global network of Universities and Academies in order to involve them increasingly in space activities. **The first ISF took place in Trento (Italy) in 2016** and was attended by 42 delegations at ministerial level, by COPUOS member countries and by representatives of national and international space organizations. **The second ISF took place in Nairobi (Kenya)**, on February 13th, 2018, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya. The representatives of 29 African countries and 13 delegations of national and international space organizations have attended the Forum in Nairobi. The delegates adopted a manifesto “the AFRICAN Chapter” pledging to continue regional dialogue and international cooperation.

One of the results of the ISF in Nairobi was the proposal by made by the Italian Space Agency to create an **International Space Training Center for Africa** at the “Luigi Broglio” Space Center in Malindi, Kenya, with the aim of training the future Africa's leaders in the space field. The third ISF –

addressed to all the Latin American Countries – will take place at the end of the year in Buenos Aires, in collaboration with the Argentinian Government.

Italy contributes to the space activities of the United Nations, through an expert resource of the **Program Associated Experts and Young Officials** (EA / JPO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and another young official of the Italian Space Agency (ASI), both posted at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

Furthermore, Italy has long been committed to the **Space Economy**, one of the four fundamental pillars of UNISPACE +50, which represents a key factor in promoting the economic and social development of all Countries. With regards to the relationship between the “Space Economy” and the promotion of sustainable development, on the 19th of June Italy promoted a seminar, entitled *“Italian Space Economy for Sustainable Development Goals”*.

The importance attributed by Italy to the “Space Economy” is also witnessed by the recent approval of the law reforming the governance of space activities by the Italian Parliament, which empowers an inter-ministerial Committee – chaired by the President of the Council of Ministers, composed of ten Ministers and the President of the Italian Space Agency and the President of the Conference of Presidents of the Regions – with the leadership and coordination of space and aerospace policy, including the related operational services.

Madame Chair,

Italy considers **space exploration** as a strategic priority and supports COPUOS’ commitment to promoting global cooperation in space exploration, open to the involvement of new space actors and to the participation of emerging countries, according also to the conclusions of the International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF-2) – that was successfully

hosted on March 3rd in Tokyo, Japan – and based on the COPUOS Action Team on Exploration and Innovation, within which Italy has actively participated.

Italy has also actively collaborated in defining the **Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS)**, which represent an important step towards the recognition of current standards and consolidated operating practices that can guarantee the conduct of space activities in a sustainable way. Italy hopes that the carried-out work will soon reach a shared result through a resolution to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

As an additional contribution for enhanced governance of outer space activities, we finally believe that the LTS guidelines could be complemented by an international voluntary instrument covering at the same time security, safety and sustainability. Such a political instrument shall set globally-shared principles of responsible behavior, including the preservation of the integrity of the space environment for all nations in line with the UN Agenda 2030, and shall set associated transparency and confidence building measures (TCBMs), including notification and consultation mechanisms to cope with the challenges of debris prevention and mitigation and space traffic management.

Thank you, Madame Chair