



New Zealand National Statement

COPUOS High-level Segment, 20 to 21 June 2018

Thank you Chair

Tena koutou katoa

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Congratulations to you Chair on your appointment and the great job you have done so far in chairing our meeting. Thank you also Director Simonetta Di Pippo and your team in the Secretariat for your herculean efforts in making UNISPACE+50 the success that it is. Being from New Zealand, we know the meaning of ~~working~~ multitasking, with limited resources, to pull off major events and we are very impressed.

Chair, I am pleased to be representing New Zealand on this important occasion. UNISPACE+50 is not only a time to celebrate the achievements of the past, but also to contemplate the future, and the many ways we can maintain a safe and secure space environment and use space science and technology to enable sustainable economic and social development for all humankind.

UNISPACE+50

Chair

The Committee, with support from the Office, has come a long way in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Previous UNISPACE conferences have raised awareness of the vast potential of space for all, the concerns of how to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and the rapid progress in space exploration and technology.



As a young space nation, New Zealand considers that all these issues remain crucially important. What is clear to us, is that technological change and the growing number of space actors, both in the public and private sector, are radically transforming how space is accessed and used.

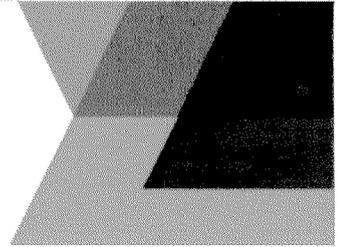
Returning to the theme of multitasking, our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, joined Benazzir Bhutto just a few hours ago as the only two women to give birth while serving as a Head of Government. Other than knowing that there will be some great role models out there, such as Astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor, none of us can imagine what this baby girl's world will be like.

As members of COPUOUS we need to be able to respond to the rapid changes taking place both in terms of the way we operate, and the issues we focus on.

The question is, how do we do this?

In New Zealand's view, a key first step is to ensure that the Space 2030 Agenda and Implementation Plan are forward looking and able to grapple with the rapid changes taking place. Of the many important things on the agenda, New Zealand's core priorities will include:

- securing and implementing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities,
- acknowledging the implications of the growing number of commercial actors in space,
- promoting the use of space-based technology to address global development needs
- exploring the opportunities and implications of 'new space'
- supporting the UN, including COPUOUS and UNOOSA, as uniquely placed institutions to enable global space cooperation



LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE

With respect to the long-term sustainability issue, New Zealand supports the development of norms and confidence building measures that contribute to the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space. We are pleased with the progress that the Committee has made in developing guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities to produce material that will assist Member States, intergovernmental organisations and the private sector for years to come.

As a launching state, New Zealand treats the responsibilities under the guidelines seriously and has already made progress to implement agreed guidelines in good faith.

We look forward to engaging with our colleagues on the remaining guidelines still under discussion and agreeing a compendium of guidelines that can be referred to the General Assembly later this year.

COMMERCIALISATION OF SPACE ACTIVITIES

With respect to commercialisation of space activities, we believe New Zealand has something special to bring to the table. We have seen one person's vision become a successful commercial company capable of the commercial launch of small satellites. In response New Zealand has put in place a modern, future-focussed and risk-based regulatory regime that ensures the development of a safe and secure space industry that meets our international obligations. We are now at the threshold of exciting new developments associated with low cost rocket launches and the placement of small satellites in space.



With these opportunities comes and new - and significant - responsibilities for New Zealand.

We look forward to engaging with others over the role of 'new space' and in particular the new actors and technologies that will become an ever larger part of the global space conversation and space economy.

SPACE-BASED TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES ON EARTH

With respect to space-based technology, New Zealand fully shares the view that this new science is vitally important in addressing the manifold challenges we face here on Earth. We have heard numerous examples, including disease eradication, humanitarian and disaster relief, fisheries surveillance, water security and of course climate change.

On this last point, New Zealand is committed to ambitious action and is on the path to a low emission, climate resilient future. The importance of the conservation and protection of Antarctica and the prosperity of our Pacific neighbours are two areas of particular focus for us.

Because of this, we want to ensure that scientists working in this domain have access to various forms of valuable datasets and have the means and frameworks in place to collaborate to address shared problems. These goals can only be achieved working alongside our partners internationally. We applaud the work of the UNOOSA and the Committee on these issues and look forward to making further progress in the future.

In closing, Chair, New Zealand hopes to maximise the value from space-based technologies, while ensuring an environment that supports long-term access to, and sustainability of, space for all. None of us can do this alone and we look forward to being part of the next generation of work.

Thank you