

ADDRESS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMET MUHTAR GÜN

**UNISPACE+50
(High Level Section)**

Madam
~~Mr.~~ Chairperson,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the chair of the UNISPACE+50 and express Turkey's support for the success of the Conference.

Also I would like to reiterate our appreciation to the Office (UNOOSA) for its tireless efforts to prepare this milestone conference.

Distinguished Participants,

“UNISPACE+50” is an exceptional opportunity to discuss and assess the achievements reached since the beginning of the space age, and the opportunities and challenges we encounter now and in the future.

The space related activities, technologies and new actors have been emerging and diversifying rapidly. These new and interlinked developments highlight the requirement for all of us to continue working effectively within the COPUOS (*Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*) and its Subcommittees. They constitute the unique international platform for the application and development of rules and regulatory instruments, discussing ever-changing situation and addressing potential legal gaps and ambiguities. We believe that we need to strengthen their effectiveness and update their agenda when necessary.

We also need an increased cooperation of the relevant UN institutions with different mandates to relevant these issues.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate Turkey's full support for the adoption of the resolution entitled "*space as a driver of sustainable development*" on the outcomes of UNISPACE+50. We expect that this resolution will consolidate our joint efforts.

Distinguished Delegates,

The existing international legal regime governing outer space provide a sound basis for space activities. All states should be encouraged to adhere to the existing legal regime. In this regard, as a member state which is among the few countries who are party to all the UN Space Treaties, we call upon all who have not yet done so to sign and ratify all the five Treaties in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space.

We would like to reiterate the importance of the states' commitment to the basic principles of the Outer Space Treaty. Among these principle, we would like to underline the universal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination; non-appropriation of outer space, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; non-militarization of outer space; and international cooperation in the development of space activities.

In light of the new developments and challenges, Turkey supports initiatives and exploration of non-binding measures aimed at addressing legal gaps and challenges and achieving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We appreciate the efforts of the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Working Group to develop a set of voluntary guidelines. We are pleased that a consensus was reached on the preamble and on nine guidelines. We support the

continuation of the process aimed at completing the full set of guidelines reflecting the consensus of all nations as early as possible.

On the other hand, we firmly believe that any current and potential process in the future with regard to the international legal framework should not impose particular difficulties, high standards or thresholds on developing countries in their space activities which might obstruct or delay the enhancement of capacity building.

Distinguished Delegates,

Being guided by the word and spirit of the International Treaties, Turkey is revisiting its national regulatory and organizational framework, including establishment of a Space Agency, for outer space activities. In this work, we take into account long-term plans, programmes and policies of the Agency.

Turkey has also been making efforts to further promote its domestic space industry which is one of the main pillars of the national space policy. To date, Turkey has achieved significant progress in capacity building on space technologies and their applications, and strengthening cooperation and sharing experience with other states and international organisations. In this context, Turkey has acquired capacity to deliver observation satellite systems. BiLSAT, RASAT, GÖKTÜRK 1 and 2 earth observation satellites are symbols of this achievement. Furthermore, the ongoing projects, Turkey's first fully indigenous communication satellite TÜRKSAT 6A and the earth observation satellite İMECE, provide further experience to set up solid domestic capacity and infrastructure.

Distinguished Delegates,

To conclude, I would like to underscore that this Conference is conducive to take stock of all achievements and challenges in the space related issues and to reiterate our determination to contribute constructively for the success of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.