

**PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL STATEMENT  
TO THE UNISPACE+50 HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT  
20- 21 JUNE 2018, VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTER**

**TO BE DELIVERED BY ATTY. EMMANUEL S. GALVEZ  
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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, UNOOSA Director,  
Ms. Rosa Maria del Refugio Ramirez de Arellano y Haro, COPUOS Chairperson,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon.

On behalf of the Philippine Government, allow me to extend my warmest felicitations and congratulations to UNOOSA Director Ms. Di Pippo, COPUOS Chairperson Ms. Arellano y Haro and all Signatory States for the successful milestone commemoration of the fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50). The UNISPACE+50 process endeavors to build a foundation that would help define the role of space activities in addressing the overarching long-term development concerns and contributing to global efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Philippines strongly supports the Space 2030 Agenda as it endeavors to create a vision for space cooperation by strengthening the mandate of the COPUOS as unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

As we take note of the contributions of the three conferences to global space governance, 50 years of space exploration and international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space, the Philippines is humbled as it has yet to harness fully the potential of the peaceful uses of outer space and reap the benefits of space innovation.

There is a pending legislation with the House of Representatives on the proposed Philippines Space Development and Utilization Policy, and the Creation of the Philippines Space Agency. Creating this legal framework would be a definitive step in the direction of developing our national capabilities on the peaceful uses of outer space and space-derived economic benefits. In due course, the Philippines will share with COPUOS its ideas and inputs for the comprehensive Space2030 Agenda.

As a State Signatory, the Philippines recognizes the significance of the principles of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, aimed at the peaceful exploration and exploitation of Outer Space for the benefit of all countries and the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploitation and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and Interests of all States.

The Philippine Government, as a developing country, acknowledges the tremendous opportunities presented by the utilization of satellite data from remote sensing

technology for socio-economic development. We note several crucial areas in which remote sensing data are viewed as crucial for well-informed decision-making and would be helpful for Member States, particularly for the Philippines: atmospheric gas measurement in support of climate change monitoring, disaster management and emergency response, the management of natural resources, forest cover mapping and agricultural forecasting and management, irrigation infrastructure mapping, drought and desertification status mapping, oceanography and sea temperature and sea level monitoring, an inventory of the coastal waterways and wetlands, and monitoring of rivers and watershed development, rural development, urban planning and overall land use monitoring including the identification of cultivable wastelands, food security, public health and epidemiological monitoring, and facilitating and deployment of humanitarian and development aid.

The Philippines believes that it could benefit more substantially if international cooperation in outer space activities could be expanded to accommodate and promote the broader participation of developing countries through active assistance by advanced space faring nations. Developing countries and emerging space nations should be encouraged and given more access to capacity building and technical assistance in COPUOS allowing them to gain more expertise and knowledge from advanced space-faring nations. Likewise, the Philippines intends to participate fully in establishing a workable legal framework that will balance the rights of countries who have nurtured technology and software used in space development with the needs and financial capability of countries who have newly-entered into space development to make use of these existing technology and further develop the same.

As a member of the Group of 77 and China, the Philippines reaffirms its conviction that the use and exploration of outer space shall be exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic and scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law. The Philippines reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including:

- A) Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development;
- B) The Principle of Non-Appropriation of Outer Space;
- C) The commitment by States for national activities in outer space, whether GOs or NGOs;
- D) The Non-Militarization of Outer Space;
- E) International cooperation in the development of space activities; and
- F) The importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and the non-placement of weapons of any kind in outer space.

Evidence of the Philippines' growing interest in learning and utilizing space science and technology was the development and launch of Diwata-1, the Philippines' first microsatellite. Diwata-1 was built by Filipino engineers and scientists together with Japanese collaborators. It was brought to the International Space Station (ISS), where it was released into orbit from the ISS/JEM (Japanese Experiment Module), "Kibo", using the J-SSOD (JEM Small Satellite Orbital Deployer) on April 27, 2016. Diwata-1 has been in orbit for more than (two) 2 years.

Diwata is a principal project of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) under the leadership of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Secretary Fortunato T. De La Pena which is meant not just to place the Philippines in the map of space innovation, but also to reap its benefits for disaster risk reduction, agricultural productivity, food security, and even sustainable tourism. With the launching of this microsatellite into space and our upcoming Diwata 2, these microsatellites will enable crucial scientific earth observation for environmental studies, resource assessment and disaster mitigation amidst the prevalence of climate change.

The Philippines is now benefiting from the accessibility of satellite data and imagery. Use of satellite technology has also boosted the capability of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to make accurate forecasts and weather monitoring. Satellite technology also enables timely information towards monitoring our forest cover and other natural resources, enhancing water resources management systems, improving weather monitoring and forecasting and enabling effective disaster risk management programs like the completed Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards)

One of the major goals of the PHL-Microsat program, to which Diwata-1 belongs, is to accelerate the progress of the creation of the Philippine Space Agency and pave the way for development of the local electronics and aerospace industries, which would complement a satellite-building industry. These earnest efforts towards developing our scientific innovations and technologies in Space Science are being conducted in parallel with the formulation of legal framework (proposed national legislation on the establishment of a national space agency).

My country comes here joining the community of nations in order to learn from your experiences, particularly from countries like us with fledgling space programs, and eventually make our own path towards maximizing peaceful use of space technology. The Philippines strongly supports the Draft Resolution on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNISPACE+50: Space as a Driver for Sustainable Development which has been negotiated over the course of a few months and finalized on May 2018. We hope to see this draft resolution adopted at the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly in September 2018.