



**STATEMENT BY
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
MALAYSIAN SPACE AGENCY (MYSA)
TO THE
64TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE (COPUOS),
VIENNA, 25 AUGUST- 3 SEPTEMBER 2021**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Madam Chair,

It is a pleasure for Malaysian delegation to participate in the 64th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

2. I wish to assure you of our support and cooperation in ensuring a successful outcome of this session. I would like to thank Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for her opening remarks, and the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session. Malaysia would also like to join others in welcoming the application submitted by Angola, Bangladesh, Panama and Slovenia to become a full member of the Committee.

3. Malaysia associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Madam Chair,

4. Malaysia reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and underscores that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes.

5. Malaysia recognizes the contributions and benefits of space technology and its application in various sectors and its important roles in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. It is our hope that we could finalise the deliberations of the Space2030 Agenda and its implementation plan at this session. We are also hopeful that the new Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability under the chairmanship of India could start its work immediately to implement the guidelines.

6. In this regard, Malaysia is confident that our exchange of views at this session could pave the way towards strengthening the role of COPUOS as a unique platform for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Madam Chair,

7. Malaysia is determined in our efforts to enact national space legislation to regulate space activities in the country, in line with Thrust One of the Malaysia National Space Policy 2030, and General Assembly Resolution 68/74 on Recommendations on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

8. Despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Malaysian Space Board Bill** was tabled in Parliament for first reading on November 3 last year. The Bill will enable Malaysia to fulfil its international obligations and allow Malaysia to ratify or accede to the relevant international instruments relating to space.

9. To implement the National Space Policy 2030, Malaysia has developed a program called **Malaysia Space Exploration 2030 (Malaysia Space-X 2030)** which sets out a ten-year strategy to spur the growth of Malaysia's space sector and create a comprehensive national space ecosystem. Malaysia Space-X 2030 aims to develop the local space technology capabilities and strengthen the country's space sector ecosystem to be more conducive and competitive. The many initiatives being planned and implemented under the Malaysia Space-X 2030 include the National Remote Sensing Satellite Development Program, the Malaysian Space Industry Strategic Plan, National Space Infrastructure Capacity Empowerment, multi-sector space technology application systems development, national Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) research capacity and infrastructure enhancement, a space science knowledge creation program and strengthening international cooperation in the space sector. We wish to also invite global space related industry players to explore opportunities in space sector in Malaysia.

Madam Chair,

10. The development of the multi-sector space technology application systems at the level of government agencies in Malaysia is for the purpose of improving public service delivery and empowerment in various sectors. During these challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia has optimized the usage of space technology particularly the use of satellite images for planning and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak area. The development of these space application systems has contributed to savings in government development expenditure of up to USD11.7 million.

11. In strengthening research and innovation capabilities and human capital development for the advancement of the national space sector, the government through the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA) has implemented several collaborative activities with the academic community, including microgravity science research on the ISS (International Space Station) and parabolic flight program for microgravity research and space systems engineering. Malaysia also inspires its future workforce by encouraging STEM education and skills development including through National Science Week (MSN), as well as programs and activities organized by the National Planetarium, coordinated under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

Madam Chair,

12. Malaysia recognizes the importance of strengthening global partnership and cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental

and non-governmental organizations, industry as well as private sector entities in fulfilling global initiatives including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Guidelines on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. Malaysia is actively involved and participated in numerous space initiatives and programs at the international and regional level, including through APRSAF, NSLI, SCOSA and IAU to enhance our capability and capacity in the space sector.

Madam Chair,

13. In conclusion, Malaysia looks forward to working together with all the Member States of COPUOS in developing our space capacity, as well as in ensuring that this common realm we share remains exclusively for peaceful purposes. Malaysia remains committed to support the international legal framework for ensuring the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and will ratify the relevant international space treaties and instruments.

With that Madam Chair, I thank you.