



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 64th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021, Agenda Item 11 – Space and Climate Change**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning/afternoon.

Finland believes that space has an important contribution to make in achieving Agenda2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. We recognise the potential of space technology in combatting climate change, including through supporting and improving climate adaptation.

In its climate policy, Finland works for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and contributes to international climate and environment finance, which supports environmentally sustainable development and vulnerable countries' adaptation of climate change. Finland supports research in the field and investment in clean energy solutions and in circular economy.

Satellites provide data on the changes taking place on Earth in providing the overall picture, collecting long-term series of data, in order to understand its effects. The data provided by space infrastructures provide crucial and timely information, which enables actors at all levels to address the consequences, managing risks and enhancing resilience of the changing climate.

In addition to national activities in monitoring and researching climate change with the help of space data, Finnish entities collaborate within the European Union (EU), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) frameworks. The European actors have excellent space infrastructure to monitor climate change and the health of our planet. Collaboration at the European level in the provision of space based data and analysis allows to better understand climate change and the Earth system, as well as the impact of human activity, in order to ensure the well-being and security of future generations.

Space and climate has a close connection to other environmental sustainability topics, including the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Assessing the environmental impacts of space activities at national level plays a vital role in contributing to safe and sustainable space activities and the protection of the environment. The Finnish Act on Space Activities includes requirements for the operators for mitigation of space debris and minimizing adverse impacts of space missions to the Earth, atmosphere, and the outer space. With the increase of launch activity, more attention needs to be paid to the consequences of increased traffic also from the viewpoint of its impacts on climate.

Finally Chair,

Finland appreciates and thanks Austria for its efforts in designing a dedicated Space4Climate Action to promote the use of space technology in combatting climate change as well as in adapting to a changing climate. We consider that the initiative is very timely and can together with existing UN activities contribute in increasing awareness of the key role space activities play in the fight against climate change.

Thank you, Chair.