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STATEMENT BY NIKLAS HEDMAN

ACTING DIRECTOR

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), I welcome you all to this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and thank you for the opportunity to address this session on the work of the Office in my capacity as the Acting Director.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

With the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 76/3 on 25 October 2021, we can now make reference to the “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan. This comprehensive and strategic document contains valuable tools and mechanisms of high importance to Member States and the work of the Office. By delivering the “Space2030” Agenda to the international community, the Committee once again demonstrated its significance and that of space activities.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Although the pandemic continues to influence our lives, decisions and delivery of activities, the Office for Outer Space Affairs continued to adapt to the on-going challenges, aspiring to adopt new solutions, and applying them across our activities to guarantee business delivery and a results-driven approach. We are proud that despite the obstacles and challenges, UNOOSA continued its strong legacy of support for the interests of Member States in 2021.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

UNOOSA continuously works with an ever-increasing number of partners, from governmental authorities and space agencies to international organizations, academia, and the commercial space sector. In the Annex to this statement, delegations will find highlights of activities and actions for the year 2022.

In this context, we are pleased to present to you the UNOOSA’s Annual Report 2021, which presents the activities of the Office in the past year in a single publication that is now available on the UNOOSA’s website. The report highlights all the main projects, initiatives and activities carried out in 2021, as well as features a special chapter dedicated to UNOOSA’s activities related to the use of space for climate action. Allow me to offer you a brief glimpse into the activities covered in the Annual Report 2021.

Over the year, we carried on with capacity-building activities as the means to bridge the capabilities gap between and within countries. To help create an equal and diverse space sector globally, we advanced empowerment efforts through the Space4Women Project,

amplified voices of young people through Space4Youth and complemented that work with a new endeavour that focuses on supporting persons with disabilities. Through UNOOSA's Space Law for New Space Actors project, we have sustained our effort in fostering responsible space operations and further promote the development of national regulatory frameworks and policies in line with international space law. The Office's UN-SPIDER programme has delivered services and advisory missions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, strengthening capabilities to address disasters, save lives and prevent damages. Our Access to Space for All initiative in 2021 enabled yet another Member State to become a space-faring nation - Mauritius joined Kenya and Guatemala on this successful journey.

The Bartolomeo programme, under the Access to Space for All initiative, became the first opportunity delivered in partnership with a private sector entity to announce an awardee. A joint endeavour of researchers from Egypt, Kenya and Uganda was selected for a free one-year mission utilizing the Bartolomeo platform at the International Space Station.

We launched the project on "Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the LTS Guidelines" aimed at raising global awareness of the importance of space sustainability. The Project produced a stand-alone publication on the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space as well as a stakeholder study report, which focuses on the experiences of States and international intergovernmental organizations implementing the Guidelines.

A series of [infographics](#) and [podcast episodes](#) that tell the story of space debris, explain the risks and illustrate the solutions available to ensure future space exploration remains sustainable are now also showcased on UNOOSA's website as a result of one more partnership and cooperation.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

UNOOSA's convening power has facilitated discussions across a range of topics in 2021. Food and Water Systems, Dark and Quiet Skies, Space Exploration, Climate Action, to mention just few examples. The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)'s 15th Annual Meeting as well as the UN/Mongolia Workshop helped advance cooperation in the GNSS domain. We hosted the 7th IAA Planetary Defense Conference, in cooperation with the European Space Agency that brought together close to 700 participants in a virtual 5-day meeting. Moreover, throughout 2021, UNOOSA addressed global audiences through a series of webinars. During the EXPO 2020, UNOOSA not only organized the Space4Women Expert Meeting with Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, but also showcased the work of the UN in and from space to a great variety of stakeholders. The year ended on a high note with an astonishing attendance to our flagship World Space Forum organized with our host country Austria with focus on Space 4 Climate Action.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Across many of our endeavours, we are greatly appreciative for the support of our partners. As the demand by Member States for our services continues to expand, from legal advisory services to guidance on space object registration or hands-on capacity building activities, we engage with a variety of stakeholders through strong partnerships to successfully advance and sustain these endeavours.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to turn your attention to some of the upcoming events, organized by UNOOSA in cooperation with a variety of partners. In August, we will advance our work on gender equality and empowerment by delivering Space4Women Expert Meeting with the Republic of Korea. The 2022 UN/Austria Symposium will take place from 13 to 15 September 2022 in a virtual format and focus on using space for mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting sustainability on Earth. And I cannot forget to mention the 4th edition of the World Space Forum that will take place in Vienna in December. There is truly much to look forward to in the second half of the year.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In concluding, let me reassure you of our fullest support in working with Member States to ensure outer space is used responsibly, sustainably and in support of their national development needs, with UNOOSA providing a full spectrum of assistance, from technical, legal, policy, and hands-on capacity-building activities in the space domain.

It has been a truly rewarding journey to be able to work with this growing community of States and other stakeholders in the Space arena, as I bring my 16 years of service to the United Nations to a close. Looking forward to new personal challenges, let me reassure you, on behalf of UNOOSA and my Office colleagues, of continued professional support, dedication, and integrity on behalf of the Office in servicing the Committee and in implementing our mandates across the full spectrum of legal, policy, and hands-on capacity-building activities in this area.

Thank you.
