



Statement of APSCO Delegation
at the 60th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of
the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 31 May–11 June 2021

Agenda Item 8. Capacity-building in space law.

Thursday, 3 June, Afternoon (3–5 p.m. Vienna time)

Friday, 4 June, Morning (11 a.m.–1 p.m. Vienna time)

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item 8. Capacity-building in space law at the Sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Madame Chair,

My delegation extends full trust and confidence in your leadership in steering this Session to a successful conclusion with positive support of the Secretariat. We also appreciate the efforts of the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and the Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman and the whole staff for planning, preparing and successfully organizing this virtual session.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO, formally established in December, 2008 and completed more than a decade of successful cooperation. In the first decade of its operations, APSCO mainly focused on the capacity building related issues in space law and policy. The First Development Plan of APSCO (2012-2020) included areas related to capacity building in space law, participation at the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), representation of APSCO at important international forums and the establishing the knowledge exchange platform by organizing biennial conference, workshop and fora on space law and policy.

APSCO has entered in a new decade of its activities and a New Development Plan for APSCO activities (2020-2030) is under implementation. The new strategic plan on Space Law and Policy of APSCO focuses also Capacity Building in Space Law and Policy for Member States.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO contributes to building capacity in the field of space law and policy in its Member States, and has been biennially organizing “Space Law and Policy Workshop/Forum” since 2011 and training back-to-back these events, as part of its two knowledge-exchange platforms. These events provide a unique knowledge-sharing platform for the executives at the national space agencies and space authorities in the Member States of APSCO, to learn from each other’s experiences and create a common understanding on the legal and policy challenges confronting the outer-space environment and provide a chance to share the development of their national space laws, new national space legislation, and development in Space policies.

APSCO is contributing, as a responsible and important Inter-Governmental Organization, to building institutional capacity and space infrastructure, within its Member States in accordance with United Nations space-related treaties, principles and resolutions. APSCO is seeking to develop partnerships with other space-related inter-governmental Organizations, for the mutual benefits. APSCO organizes two knowledge exchange platforms biennially; ‘APSCO International Symposium’ and ‘APSCO Space Law Forum’. Since 2009, APSCO has organized, in Member States, nine International Symposiums; three Space Law Workshops in collaboration

with UNOOSA, in 2009, 2010 and 2014 respectively. Besides these three Space Law Workshops, APSCO has also successfully organized 'APSCO Space Law and Policy Forum' in the years 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Between 23 - 26 September 2019, United Nations/ Turkey/ APSCO Conference on Space Law and Policy was hosted by the Government of Turkey and co-organized by the TUBITAK Space Technologies Research Institute, the Turkish Space Agency and Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization in Istanbul, Turkey. APSCO organized a back-to-back training on Space Law for its Member States just before this conference organization. The training was jointly organized by APSCO and TUBITAK Space Technologies Research Institute (TUBITAK UZAY), with the contribution of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Over 40 participants from APSCO Member States participated in this productive training course given by renowned lecturers.

APSCO made continuous contact and cooperate with UNOOSA on Capacity Building and this time recently contacted with UNOOSA on Capacity Building in National Space Law to discuss and deliberate on the proposal for having APSCO/UNOOSA joint cooperation on capacity development in national space legislation. More than 10 online meetings were held during January to June 2020, with UNOOSA officials, space law experts, finance and legal departments to deliberate the details of the proposal. The final proposal was concluded after the mutual efforts and approved by the 14th Council Meeting of APSCO, held in December 2020, for implementation in 2021.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO pays highest attention to our new generation, and cultivates the space talents. So far, there are 75 PhD and 235 Master degree students recruited with full scholarship supports through cooperation with China Scholarship Council including Master Program students for Space Law & Policy.

Master Program on Space Law and Policy with Beihang University through cooperation with China Scholarship Council has 11 graduate students from the countries Bangladesh, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey until now.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space helps to intensify and diversify national space programs and to bring the benefits of space technology applications to a wide circle of stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. Regulatory and policy frameworks at the national, regional and global levels provide States, in particular developing States, the necessary basis for their space activities. Considering the fast development of space sector and the challenging nature of regulatory perspectives of the space activities, the role of international and regional organizations in space have certainly become more important. It is therefore very pertinent to identify regional cooperation schemes in space cooperation and their role in developing countries, regions and overall space sector. This motivation of sharing experiences and discussion among different regional organizations constitutes the basis for this year's workshop.

APSCO, as the Multilateral Inter-Governmental Organization, provides a platform for cooperative activities and capacity building in Member States in the field of space science, technology and its applications. This year, APSCO, in collaboration with European Space Agency (ESA) and China Institute of Space Law (CISL) plans to organize the Space Law Workshop in Sanya, China on 6-8 September 2021. The workshop is planned to be conducted in hybrid format, that includes participation of the relevant scholars, experts and institutions on-site from China and virtually from Member State of APSCO and other international organizations and international space community.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO and its Members are strongly committed and strongly support international space cooperation especially through UNOOSA mechanism, and we welcome all nations to cooperate with us for exploring and exploiting peaceful uses of outer space to bring and share benefits to enhancing prosperity together.

APSCO is open to all Countries and the space community to cooperate for peaceful uses of outer space for exploring and exploiting through space cooperation.

I thank you for your attention.

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