

**Statement by the Republic of Korea  
at the Fifty-Seventh Session of  
COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Vienna, 3–14 February 2020**

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**Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of Views**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We look forward to a productive 57<sup>th</sup> session under your able leadership.

*[Space 2030 agenda]*

Madam Chair,

The Republic of Korea is pleased that UNISPACE+50 initiated the process for the Committee to develop the Space2030 agenda, setting the course of the Committee's work until 2030. We welcome in particular the progress made so far by the working group on the Space2030 agenda. This was possible thanks to the excellent leadership displayed by the chair and the two vice chairs, the support from the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the active engagement of member states. The current draft agenda and implementation plan highlights and reflects in detail how space is a driver for sustainable development. In this regard, Korea looks forward to continuing its participation in the efforts to develop a visionary document that lays out the role of space science and research for sustainable development, disaster management, and climate change response.

*[Disaster management]*

We expect that this role will be increasingly salient to disaster management. As temperatures rise worldwide and climate change worsens, the

scale of natural disasters such as forest fires is growing. In 2019, massive wildfires broke out in the Amazon, California, and Australia, and an unusual wildfire hit Gangwon Province on the Korean Peninsula. Korea provided 850 satellite images to be used for emergency response to global disasters in 2019. In July, we held a meeting with UN-SPIDER experts to enhance the understanding of international disaster response using space technology. We will continue to make such efforts so that Korea's space activities can contribute more to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*[Space technology development and application]*

In order to improve quality of life, Korea launched one of its twin geostationary satellites in December 2018. The other satellite will be launched this month. They are equipped with Geostationary Ocean Color Imager-II (GOCI-II)—which provides 26 different types of real-time maritime observations, including information about red tides, algae, and oil spills—as well as the Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS), which can detect 20 kinds of fine dust-causing substances in the atmosphere such as nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

*[GNSS]*

Madam Chair,

Korea is taking steps to introduce the Korean Satellite Navigation System (KPS – Korea Positioning System) by 2035 in order to improve the quality of location, navigation, and visual information on the Korean Peninsula. Korea hopes to successfully develop the KPS through continued cooperation with the international community. Korea is ready to become a dedicated member of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), of which it is currently an observer, and will work closely with the ICG community to increase the use of global navigation satellite systems at regional and international levels.

*[Space situational awareness]*

Korea established a master plan to increase space situational awareness in 2014. Based on this plan, Korea has established a comprehensive system for responding to space hazards. Korea is actively promoting international cooperation by monitoring the reentry and conjunction risks of artificial space objects using the optical wide-field patrol network (OWL-Net). In 2019, we reported the discovery of the potentially hazardous asteroid “2018 PP29”, the near-earth asteroid (NEA) “2018 PM28”, and four other NEAs to the Minor Plane Center. For long-term sustainable space activities, Korea will contribute to the UN’s efforts to reduce the risks posed by space hazards and continue its research and technology development for space situational awareness, space traffic management, and discovery of NEAs.

*[Space weather]*

Madam Chair,

Damage caused by sudden changes in solar activity can have a worldwide effect on industries such as electric power and telecommunications. Therefore, establishing a cooperative system that can enable joint response is all the more important. Korea has been actively involved in the discussions at international organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Space Environment Service (ISES) and plans to further contribute to international cooperation by sharing observations on the space environment and exchanging technologies. In particular, the Korea Space Weather Center (KSWC) has been continuously developing prediction models to strengthen its capacity for forecasting space weather, and we plan to establish an information processing system using big data and AI systems in 2021 so that we can make more accurate predictions. This will enable us to utilize and share reliable observations and, in turn, contribute to the development of the space weather sector.

*[Implementation of LTS guidelines]*

Madam Chair,

Last year, the Committee adopted the preamble and 21 guidelines for sustainable space activities. Korea participated in the preparation process for the UN GGE Report on Transparency and Trust-Building and continued to participate in the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) Working Group on Space Activities. Moreover, Korea is faithfully implementing the guidelines and will continue to do so in the future. We look forward to sharing best practices with member states within the new LTS Guidelines Working Group, which will be launched at this session.

Thank you, Madam Chair. /END/