

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Fifty-eighth Session
Vienna, 19 - 30 April 2021

Statement of the Delegation of Romania

**Agenda item 3: General exchange of views and introduction of reports
submitted on national activities**

Distinguished delegates,

Madam chairperson Nathalia Archinard (dear Nathalia), let me express on behalf of the Delegation of Romania our satisfaction for seeing you again in the main chair of this Subcommittee and to transmit to you the support of my delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate.

We would also express our appreciation to the staff of the secretariat, in particular in those challenging circumstances, to the director of the Office, Simonetta Di Pippo, for her role in the achievements of the Subcommittee since the beginning of her mandate. We were glad to note the positive evolution of the position of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the UN Organization. My delegation will give all possible support for the de facto implementation of this new position, clearly demanded by the actual extension of global space activities.

Romania as a European Union (EU) country and a European Space Agency (ESA) member state is participating to their programmes and applications. Romania is also a country having its own space agency - ROSA - and is developing its own space programme according to the national strategy and in concordance and complementarity with other international programs.

Presently, the national strategy of Romania is built around the concept of 3S (Three S's): the first S means Science and technology (including exploration), the second S is represented by Services (including access to space) and the third S comes from Security.

Space activities are carried by a variety of organisations, public and private, as institutes, universities, industry, SME's, other organisations, a number of 170 contractors being recorded by the national space program. I would like to mention the concentration of some activities in Centres of competence, in areas like: micro-spacecrafts integration and testing, space robotics, artificial intelligence and quantum communications, radiative environments and radiation hardening by power lasers, space-assisted agriculture, human spaceflight training, small launchers.

Madam Chair, I will mention a few activities developed by Romania since the last session of the Sub-Committee, including some of them in support of the present agenda.

Romania is participating in the European Space Agency's all major programs on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, Space

transportation.

Romania continued the participation to space science missions as Euclid and Juice. Romanian scientists are involved in the important LISA collaboration on gravitational waves in preparation of a large space gravitational observatory.

As a participant in the ESA Human Spaceflight and Exploration programme, Romania is included in the agreement between NASA and ESA regarding the next Lunar exploration Programme.

Romania continued support in developing tools for the monitoring and protection of our planet. I will mention the participation to the ESA mission ALTIUS which will measure both stratospheric ozone and other atmospheric trace gases such as nitrogen dioxide and aerosols that affect air quality. Another important participation is the ESA - UK mission TRUTHS which will improve the capability to estimate radiative imbalance underlying climate change. The ground and airborne lidar instruments operational in Bucharest are measuring the aerosols content in the atmosphere. ROSA is member of the Space Climate Observatory agreement since its establishment.

As concerning Space debris, I would like to mention the continuing participation of Romanian entities in the development of collision avoidance tools and the commitment to the ESA programme developing In-orbit servicing and active debris removal missions.

Romania is an active participant in the ESA safety and security programme. The Romanian Space Agency is participating in the European SST consortium, offering operational optical information and soon radar capacity necessary for space traffic management and space debris measurements.

Contributions to space weather monitoring are given by geo-magnetic data from a sensitive observatory near Surlari, Bucharest, coupled with satellite data to monitor space weather events. Periodic Solar Weather Bulletins are released by the Bucharest group in the last two years. Romania announced the participation to the ESA L5 space-weather mission.

In the area of Near-Earth Objects, I would also mention the relevant participation of Romanian scientists and engineers in the definition and development phase of the ESA mission called HERA devoted to asteroids survey. I can also mention the technical progress in building the Solar coronagraph for the PROBA-3 ESA mission. My delegation is participating with experts in the SMPAG.

The Romanian Space Agency, in cooperation with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) organized so far a series of eight Conferences on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures, the 9th edition being scheduled for 5-6 August 2021. The advancements of this topics and the skills developed in Romania conducted to the establishment of a ROSA Centre on Space Critical Infrastructures and Security, which is also supporting the UN-SPIDER regional support centre in Bucharest for disaster management.

Madame Chairperson, my country supported the development of the Space2030 Agenda within the United Nations system and we could see its development as a necessity due to the major contributions of space to the achievement of the

Sustainable Development Goals. I hope that this successful Space2030 Agenda might, inter alia, create a framework for taking into account the planned substantial activities of countries and space agencies.

Also, Romania is supporting the actions that the International Astronomical Union is undertaking for the protection of the dark and quiet sky for science and society.

Madame Chairperson, my delegation welcomes the establishment of the working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and we offer to participate with expertise and management as needed, in order to reach consensus on the remaining guidelines.

Regarding the future role of the Committee, as my delegations mentioned in most of its statements, the role of the Committee should be compliant with the global space developments in all areas including security. In particular, the resources for the Office for Outer Space Affairs should adapt with the current rapid increasing space activities and needs of regulations and global coordination. Again, we also appreciate the recent evolution in re-positioning the Office within the UN organisational system and I ensure you of all support from my delegation in this development.

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your attention.