



**STATEMENT BY H.E AMB. ROBINSON NJERU GITHAU,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA DELIVERED TO THE
FIFTY EIGHTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
SUB-COMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) – 19TH – 30TH APRIL
2021**

Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Allow me to begin by thanking you, **Madam Natalia Archibald**, for ably guiding and steering the discussions during this 58th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's continued support.

Kenya also takes this opportunity to appreciate the efforts and work being undertaken by **Madam Simonetta Di Pippo**, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat, particularly in the organization of this session at a very challenging time when the world continues to face the Covid-19 pandemic. My delegation joins others in conveying our empathy with those affected by the ongoing pandemic, and express our solidarity with other Governments as we work side by side to contain the pandemic, and reduce its impact on the socio-economic progress of our countries.

Madam Chair,

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by Permanent Representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

1. Kenya, like every other country, has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have disrupted our way of life as we used to know it. The pandemic has led to loss of many lives and interrupted the implementation on many space-related activities in country. We acknowledge and support the decision and measures taken by UNOOSA to conduct this meeting in a hybrid format, supporting both virtual and physical participation.
2. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Kenya has continued to take proactive steps through the Kenya Space Agency to nurture and



grow its nascent space industry. We are happy to report that we launched the Kenya Space Agency strategic plan 2020-2025 on 21st October, 2020. This strategic plan identifies priority area of focus and will guide implementation of the Space Programme in Kenya.

3. On 24th – 25th February, 2021, the Kenya Space Agency hosted the Space Sector Stakeholders Forum in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by representatives from Government Ministries, State Departments and Corporations, Academia, Private Sector and International Organizations based in Kenya. The goal of the forum was to have a conversation with the stakeholders and deliberate on Space Sector we want for Kenya. The forum presented Kenya Space Agency with an opportunity to better understand the needs and requirements of the stakeholders.

Madam Chair,

4. I am glad to report that Kenya is keen to continue building its human capacity at all levels of learning. At the Primary and Secondary levels of learning, the Kenya Space Agency continues to implement an International Science and Environmental program called “Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment – GLOBE” and is also in the process of introducing “Space Clubs” in the schools.
5. At the University level, the Kenya Space Agency has introduced research grants to Kenyan universities to stimulate and catalyze research in Space Science and Space Technology. Last year, KSA introduced an equivalent of USD100,000 University Research Grant on Nanosatellite Development and Operational Space Weather.
6. The research grants were awarded during the launch of the strategic plan on 21st October, 2020. The Research grant on Nanosatellite development was awarded to FIVE Kenyan universities, where each University received USD10,000 grant to develop a model nanosatellite. The research grant for Operational Space Weather was awarded to a consortium of THREE Kenyan universities for an equivalent of USD 50,000 to develop infrastructure for space weather monitoring.



7. This research on Nanosatellite is building on the experience Kenya gained as the first beneficiary on the United Nations/Japan Cooperation Programme on CubeSat Deployment from the International Space Station Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo), known as “KiboCUBE”. We thank UNOOSA and JAXA for having extended this opportunity to Kenya. We sincerely want to thank UNOOSA and the other organizations offering developing countries opportunities to access space.
8. This year, we are planning to enhance the funding to include Space Applications as we continue implementing the other TWO research awards. We are hoping to secure an opportunity to launch to space the best Nanosatellite model from the Universities that benefited from the Research award on Nanosatellite Development. We welcome support and partnership to launch another Kenyan Nanosatellite as well as enhance the funding for the research awards and expound on the areas of research.

Madam Chair,

9. In June 2020, a research project by the Kenya Space Agency was selected to benefit from the Group on Earth Observations - Google Earth Engine (GEO-GEE) award. The GEO-GEE Programme sought to benefit initiatives delivering significant impact using Earth observations and data science with respect to environmental and development goals, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
10. Under the beneficiary research project christened, “Monitoring for Information and Decisions using Space Technology – MIDST”, the Kenya Space Agency is working closely with stakeholders to build their technical capacity and develop products on Forests, Urbanization and Floods/Landslides. The project team comprising on relevant stakeholders has already concluded a pilot study for monitoring changes on the Aberdares forest in Kenya and are currently looking at Urbanization trends in Nakuru, a major town in Kenya.



Madam Chair,

11. On the African front, Kenya has been selected by the African Union Commission (AUC) to host the inaugural Africa Space Week. The event, whose goal is to promote and enhance intra-Africa and international collaboration in Space Activities, is scheduled to be held on **19th-25th June, 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya**. We welcome all the stakeholders in the space sector in Africa as well as the international community to this event.
12. The Kenya Space Agency is keen to work closely with the Space Agencies in Africa as well as the African Space Agency to harness the potential benefits of space science, technology, innovation and applications in addressing Africa's socio-economic. Kenya notes that there is the need to enhance intra-Africa collaboration due to the similarities of our experiences and challenges and supports African initiatives such as the African Development Satellite (AfDevSat) initiative that seeks to harness our potential as a region.
13. Due to the global nature of space activities, the Kenya Space Agency continues to actively engage with other International Space Agencies and Organizations. We are keen to collaborate and partner in programmes and activities that will grow our indigenous space sector as well as utilize the potential of space technologies to address to the socio-economic needs of our citizens.
14. In conclusion Madam Chair, as a country, we support the initiatives that will guarantee opportunities that lead to access to space for developing countries and the long-term sustainability of space activities.

I Thank You.