

Item11, Near Earth Objects Statement

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Many thanks for the opportunity given to us for presenting this Statement on NEO and opportunities which it may bring to Iran and similar space emerging countries.

One of the most serious threats to our planet is near-Earth objects, and all countries need to work together effectively to resolve it. The international, regional or private institutions set up for this purpose need to develop a plan to strengthen the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and other international groups; and these institutions should also share necessary information equally with all States. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also taken a major step in the field of optical monitoring of these objects. Regarding the observation of Asteroid Hides and Meteor Showers, Iranian Space Agency (ISA) has been active through Khayyam Observatory since 2013 and has also supported the activities of astronomical groups in Iran. The search for asteroids and the observation of near-Earth objects by Iranian astronomical groups are being seriously pursued, and there is a valuable experience in this field in my country, which has led to the discovery of more than 33 asteroid cases by Iranian astronomers.

Given the appropriate geographical position and weather condition, **Iran is going to organize a set of data on NEO Impact Risks based on information gathered from Amateur Astronomers' Observations.** These data could be merged to the present datasets alongside **a new set of data proposed by Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC)** to improve NEO threat assessment. This new set of data will be provided through the **Radio Telescope developed in this Center** for Radio Astronomy, which may prepare some pictures from the sky as the input for post-processes to result in NEOs database updates.

Having prepared these datasets from Iran's sky, there is the opportunity to define a satellite project like NEOSSat for monitoring and positioning of new objects in orbit. To achieve this, **Iran membership in Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG)** could be the first step, that collaborations on such Satellite's Payload would be doable. ISA, as the main organizer of Space Activities in Iran, **proposes a Cubesat with Astronomical Mission to be developed by Iranian Universities and Research Institutes with the help of collaborators in SMPAG and under the**

supervision of ISRC. This project needs scientific cooperation of SMPAG members and UNCOPOUS supports to result in similar achievements like NEOSSat.