

*Translated from Spanish*

## **Contribution of Cuba to the report on activities carried out in implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda**

The “Space2030” Agenda, adopted in mid-2021 through United Nations resolution 76/3, is a valuable contribution to full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the leveraging of space-based data, innovative space products and technologies and other results obtained as a result of the exploration and use of outer space. The Agenda, through its four overarching objectives, is effective in structuring national efforts around the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.

In 2025, the Committee will carry out a midterm review of progress made in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda. In that regard, Cuba takes this opportunity to share its experience and reaffirm its commitment to that endeavour.

### **Overarching objective 1**

#### **Enhance space-derived economic benefits and strengthen the role of the space sector as a major driver of sustainable development**

In pursuit of this objective, during the period under review, Cuba has established an institutional body responsible for related activities (the Department for Outer Space Activities). That decision underscores the fundamental importance that the country attaches to the application of space science and technology as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, the Government of Cuba continues to participate actively in the work of international bodies in the field of satellite communications, monitoring developments in that area through those bodies with a view to supporting the country’s security and economic development and promoting digital transformation.

At the same time, efforts continue to be made – through projects implemented bilaterally and with United Nations agencies such as UNDP – to expand the peaceful uses of space technologies and satellite observation on the basis of specific projects. These activities will make it possible to improve networks for monitoring hurricanes, forest fires and droughts. They will also help to strengthen the Natural Disaster Early Warning System.

### **Overarching objective 2**

#### **Harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life**

In this context, as already mentioned, Cuba has expanded the use of space products and technologies for the management of both natural and human-caused disasters: prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

To that end, efforts have been made to encourage the training of Cuban engineers at various academic institutions at the global level as part of projects involving bilateral cooperation with relevant space actors. Those programmes have also boosted the work of Cuban universities of technology, fostering the creativity of students working on projects aimed at the local construction of small satellites (nanosatellites) by 2025.

In addition, efforts are being made to encourage the use of space technologies to optimize crop monitoring in key sectors, such as the production of sugar cane and tobacco; to increase telecommunications coverage in rural areas; and to promote the use of innovative solutions such as telemedicine.

In line with SDG 6 of the 2030 Agenda relating to access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as the most basic human need in relation to healthcare and well-being, the use of satellite technology-based mapping for the detection of groundwater reserves and aquifers has been stepped up, preventing the over-exploitation of those resources.

Furthermore, high-resolution images have been used to identify sources of contamination in rivers and on coasts, the most notable example being the use of those technologies in the Cauto River basin.

### **Overarching objective 3**

#### **Improve access to space for all and ensure that all countries can benefit socioeconomically from space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Cuba continues to endeavour to involve, in a cross-cutting manner, all sectors of the Cuban economy and of Cuban society – especially young people – in the use of space products. Notably, at the third Open World Astronomy Olympiad, held from 15 to 22 September 2024 in the Russian Federation, the Cuban team, which participated remotely, was awarded two bronze medals and two honourable mentions.

A number of Cuban young people, as members of the International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), participated actively in the International Aeronautics Congress in Baku in 2023 and in Milan, Italy, in 2024.

### **Overarching objective 4**

#### **Build partnerships and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and in the global governance of outer space activities**

As part of its efforts to forge new partnerships that foster the active involvement of developing countries, in June 2024 Cuba hosted the fifty-second joint meeting of the Board and the twenty-seventh meeting of the Operations Committee of Intersputnik. In that context, the Deputy Minister of Communications of the Republic of Cuba, Ana Julia Marine López, was elected as the new Chair of the Board, a development that has strengthened the role of Cuba as representative of the Latin American and Caribbean region in giving prominence to these issues.

Furthermore, in 2024 Cuba ratified the instrument establishing the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE), thus enabling the instrument's entry into force. By taking that step, Cuba reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology as a driver of sustainable development. The country is thus contributing to regional efforts to foster the creation of new space technologies and the development of innovative, truly Latin American and Caribbean solutions designed on the basis of the specific needs of and challenges faced by the region.

### **Challenges faced by Cuba, and the country's needs**

Despite the devastating effects of unilateral coercive measures, those effects being in evidence in all sectors of the Cuban economy and Cuban society, there is political will, expressed in the discussion and promotion of concrete strategies aimed at bolstering the use of space products. To that end, work on a policy for the use of space resources that is designed to offer concrete solutions to the challenges of underdevelopment, climate change and sustainable development is being expedited.

In addition, efforts are being made to identify funding opportunities as part of projects implemented by multilateral institutions with a view to strengthening the Cuban aerospace sector and accessing new opportunities for academic training in prestigious international institutions in this field.