Statement of the Delegation of Romania

UNISPACE+50

Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso, Head of the Romanian Delegation

Your excellences, Madame chairperson, Distinguished delegates and guests,

Romania supported the activities regarding the anniversary of 50 years from the organisation of the first UNISPACE Conference, and I remind that Romania had the honor to be the vicechairman of the committee, when Austria was chairing and Brasil was the rapporteur. Also, with the occasion of UNISPACE III, back in 1999, my country organized the Regional Conference for Eastern Europe in Bucharest. In time, Romania held the chairmanship of COPUOS and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

I would like to remind you that Romania is an European Union (EU) country and an European Space Agency (ESA) member state, being the second nation of the Eastern European Group admitted in ESA (2011). Romania is a country having its own space agency, ROSA, established in 1993, currently being one of the largest space agency in Eastern Europe. Ro is developing its own space programme according to the national strategy and in concordance and complementarity with other international programs.

Space research, technology and development are recognised in Romania as a major strategic area having a distinct role of driving force for other fields. This strategic commitment was proved by the positive evolution of the national space programme (STAR), but also by an important increase of the international cooperation, as Romania currently cooperates with all major space agencies and participates, in cooperation, to more than 20 space missions and programmes.

Romania committed significant participation in the European Space Agency (half of the yearly space budget) for most of the actual and new exploration, applications and technology programmes.

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

The first S - Science and technology - includes space exploration, space science and all research, development and industrial efforts to produce the launcher, spacecraft and specific space instruments. This area is a clear driver for all areas of science and technology and a direct and spin-off client for the industry of high technology.

The second S - Services - included Telecommunications, Earth observation, PNT (Position- Navigation - Timing), integrated applications as precision farming,

telemedicine, meteorology, autonomous transportation, also access to space launch services.

The third S - Security - represents an important area that we consider essential and relevant for the space endeavour. Ground radar; investments in NEO detection and early warnings; participation to the future Asteroid impact detection mission; Space weather - terrestrial and magnetic field monitoring.

Romania is actively supporting the Space2030 agenda on most of its objectives. I will put a special emphasis on the critical infrastructure aspect of space assets. I can mention that Ro is one of the few countries with specific legislation for critical space infrastructures. I recall here the cycle of seven annual international conferences organized by ROSA under the auspices of the International Academy of Astronautics on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures.

Our planet is a small space station orbiting around the Sun, which is a standard G-class star close to the border of a spiral galaxy. Planet Earth is surrounded by harsh cosmic threats, as radiation, solar winds and potential dangerous cosmic objects. Despite the optimistic opinions we heard in this room, humans are not at all made to live in the cosmic environment (the tiny atmosphere of Earth and the terrestrial magnetic field are providing a protective shield which denoted to be very sensitive regarding some developments of our civilization).

In spite that, we are able today to begin the transformation of this environment in a fantastic unlimited new world, and we were the generation having the chance, but also the responsibility, to be the pioneers of this new era.