



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

**65th SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE**

**Statement by
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese**

Item 5: general exchange of views

Vienna, 1st of June, 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.

While fully aligning myself with the statement of the European Union, let me add a few remarks in my national capacity

At the outset, let me express our full solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Italy condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, which is a gross violation of international law and humanitarian principles. Italy calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me now congratulate you for presiding over this session of the Committee, and thank all the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy is one of the "pioneer Nation" in space and has developed advanced technical capabilities in almost all fields of specialization, with niches of excellence in both scientific disciplines and industrial capacities. It confirms therefore its commitment towards all the activities of the Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular on topics such as:

- Utilization of satellite remote sensing data for sustainable development, management of the environment, as well as disaster management and mitigation;

- Monitoring of space debris and near-earth objects;
- Capacity building in all space disciplines, including space law, and the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, which our delegation - and myself as Vice Chair of the ad hoc working group - contributed to finalize.

The Long-term sustainability of outer space activities, the management of the space traffic, the utilization of space resources and the protection of sky for the astronomic observation are also topics that are constantly under the attention of the Italian delegation.

In particular, regarding the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, Italy is committed to align its space activities to the agreed Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines. This is also reflected in our National Security Strategy for Space and Italy had the opportunity to reiterate this message during the G20 meeting dedicated to space, in September 2021 in Italy, which stressed in its final recommendations the importance of supporting the implementation of the guidelines.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy continues to actively contribute, through the support of its national experts, to the working groups (WG) of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, as well as the informal groups, including the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG).

In this regard, allow me to recall that all UN Member States have agreed on the EU participation in COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies in the unanimously adopted 2018 UN General Assembly Resolution 73/91. Therefore, in our views, the EU shall participate in all the meetings of COPUSOS, of its subcommittees and of the working groups, both formal and informal.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy has celebrated its first National Space Day on 16 December 2021, anniversary of the launch of the first Italian satellite, in 1964. The establishment of a Space Day will contribute to raise the awareness of the Italian citizens on the often-underestimated contribution of space technology to their every-day life.

As mentioned during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, I wish to recall three of the launches of new missions in which Italy is involved:

- the NASA mission called DART, with the objective to impact the asteroid Dimorphos, in order to test and validate a method to protect Earth in case of an asteroid impact threat;
- the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer satellite, again a collaboration between NASA and the Italian Space Agency (ASI), dedicated to measuring the polarization of X-rays from supernova remnants, supermassive black holes and other high-energy objects;

- the launch of the second satellite of the second generation of the national COSMO-SkyMed radar constellation, which is state-of-the-art among Earth observation systems based on the radar technology.

On April 23, the Italian satellite AGILE, expected to be operational for only two years, celebrated its 15th anniversary. With more than 70.000 orbits around the Earth, AGILE has acquired the map of the entire observable sky in the gamma radiation. It has explored our galaxy and the collected data have been distributed to the international scientific community by the Space Scientific Data Centre of the Italian Space Agency.

The Italian Space Agency has conducted a three-year economic and econometric study in collaboration with the University of Milan, with the purpose of assessing the socio-economic impact of public investments in space. More details will be provided in a statement that Italy will make under agenda item 10 (Spin-off benefits).

Let me also mention that Samantha Cristoforetti (“Astrosamantha”, as we call her in Italy), the Italian astronaut of the European corps of astronauts, has left Earth for the International Space Station on April 27 and will be back in September. Minerva is the name of this second mission of Dr. Cristoforetti on the ISS and includes 8 experiments

selected by the Italian Space Agency, which will be presented in a separate statement under agenda item 15.

This is clear demonstration of the importance for Italy of gender issues in all domains, including outer space.

Last but not least, I wish to announce that Rome is candidate to host the Universal Exhibition in 2030 under the theme “People and Territories: urban regeneration, inclusion and innovation”. This candidature can count on many strengths, including the aerospace development: Rome and the neighbouring province, in fact, are not only home to important institutions operating in the aerospace sector, such as ESA, but also to various production chains in the sector. Not by chance, Colleferro, a city in the Rome outskirts, has been designated the European Capital of Space for the year 2022, as the geographical centre of the “Old Continent” for the aerospace sector. Rome 2030 Expo would hence represent a tremendous opportunity for institutions, research centres and academia from partner countries, in order to develop joint programmes, projects and new partnerships in this very sector.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.