

**Bangladesh Statement  
at the 65th Session of the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)  
by  
H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith,  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative  
(Vienna, 1-10 June 2022)**

**Agenda Item 5: General exchange of views**

**Mr. Chair** (*Mr. Omran Sharaf, Project Director of the Emirates Mars Mission, Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, UAE*),

At the beginning, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Committee for 2022-2023. I assure you of Bangladesh delegation's full support in discharging your important responsibilities during your chairmanship.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Niklas Hedman, Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session.

**Mr. Chair,**

We appreciate the steady growth of COPUOS in recent times and believe that COPUOS has a critical role in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. For a shared and sustainable future, we must work to ensure the use and exploration of the outer space for peaceful purposes only, benefitting all countries and 'leaving no one behind'. We emphasize on international cooperation in the development of space activities and would like to refer to UNGA resolution A/RES/51/122 containing the 'Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries' as a guiding document.

**Mr. Chair,**

As Bangladesh is a new member of this important committee, I would like to shed light on our own national initiatives with regards to space affairs.

Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO), which is a multi-disciplinary research and development organization covering research in different geo-disciplinary area, was established in 1980 as the national space agency of Bangladesh to work in space research, space technology development and space applications in the country for peaceful purposes. SPARRSO works on earth observation and weather monitoring, land use mapping, river and coastal monitoring including long-term changes in the largest mangrove forest in the world, crop monitoring including acreage estimation, weather forecasting, flood area mapping, marine fishing zones identification system in the Bay of Bengal and so on. SPARRSO plays an important role on critical issues such as disaster management and mega-infrastructure development and supports other government organizations for capacity building in the Graphic Information System (GIS) and space technology application domain.

**Mr. Chair,**

To support the national 'Vision 2041' as envisaged by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, SPARRSO adopted short-, medium- and long-term plans to tackle the technological gaps and for the advancement of space infrastructure and technology in Bangladesh. While the short-term plan includes establishment of Geostationary and Polar orbiting Satellite Ground Stations, conducting study for development and launching of Earth Observation Satellite and establishment of AIT Lab; the medium-term plan consists of following elements: installation of National Space Observatory, integrated Training and Research Centre for the Expansion of Space Technology, and establishment of Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) Lab for the development of satellites. Our long-term plan has the following elements: Space Science Building for Advanced Research, development and launching of indigenous satellite, industrial park for boosting space economy, and space research and remote sensing centres at different zones to expand space technology. We are working for a long-term, affordable and sustainable national space programme specifically tailored to national requirements, with better earth observation system for land use; improved communication services; catalysing scientific research and home-grown high-tech support industries. To that end, we are at present working with the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), among other institutions and agencies.

**Mr. Chair,**

I would like to report that Bangladesh launched its first communication satellite, Bangabandhu-1, in 2018 with the launch vehicle Falcon-9 from SpaceX. The satellite is located at the 119.1° East longitude geostationary slot providing coverage area of whole Bangladesh, SAARC countries, Indonesia, Philippines and other nearby countries. The satellite is having 40 transponders in Ku band and C band providing telecommunication, broadcasting, VSAT facilities, DTH, banking services, distance learning, telemedicine services, etc. Bangladesh government has established Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) to operate the satellite. BSCL has initiated preparations for Bangabandhu-2 satellite for earth observation, which is expected to provide support for precision agriculture, resource management, environmental monitoring, urban area mapping, disaster management, surveillance of the maritime territories, etc.

**Mr. Chair,**

Bangladesh would like to express its readiness to work closely with COPUOS and UNOOSA on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 'Space 2030 Agenda', universal and equal access to outer space, international cooperation, strengthening the capacity building of and technical assistance to the developing countries in utilizing space applications, and enhanced inclusivity in space affairs.

As a new member, we request for the support and cooperation of the all the members of COPUOS, helping us to perform our responsibilities efficiently.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.