



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE SIXTY- FIFTH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE, 1-10 JUNE 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E.
AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay for his exemplary chairpersonship of the 59th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and would like to comment on some of the issues put forth during the session that we consider of utmost relevance for developing countries.

2. The unfavorable financial situation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, has limited its capacity-building activities. UNOOSA is affected by a shortage of funds to support cooperation programmes. Nevertheless, the Group would like to note with appreciation activities carried out in 2021, under the Programme on Space Applications by the UNOOSA in collaboration with Member States and other international organizations.

3. With regard to the technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, the Group would like to reiterate the fact that the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation, needs to be used in a way that ensures countries have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.

4. The issue of space debris, its proliferation and removal, continue to be a cause for concern in the space. The Group therefore is of the view that the potential hazards posed by the collision of debris with space objects and the consequences of the contamination of outer space cannot be underestimated. It is also important that new space actors are not burdened due to the historical activities of established space actors. The Group would also like to emphasize the challenges caused by placement of mega constellations in low Earth orbit, including those related to sustainable use of orbit and frequencies, and believes addressing these challenges should be a priority in the work of COPUOS.

5. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

Mr. Chair,

6. Space science and technology, and their applications are essential in effectively

addressing current and future challenges to social and economic development and sustainability, such as natural disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. The Group notes in this regard that space activities are also crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the “Space2030” Agenda, in particular as part of efforts to support sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life and manage the global environment. It is therefore important to ensure that the Office is equipped with the necessary resources, including sufficient funding, to assist a greater number of countries in having access to the benefits of space science and technology and its applications in line with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable UN Treaties on Outer Space, as well as the “Space2030” Agenda.

7. The Group would like to highlight the importance of science and technology dissemination in bridging the space divide. The Group therefore calls upon the Committee and UNOOSA for greater support to the training programs of the regional centers affiliated to the United Nations, and to conduct wider exchange and cooperation among different regional centers, including through alliance of regional centers, with the aim of enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation to empower the development of technology among nations. The Group also calls upon UNOOSA and Member States to make available more opportunities for academic networking, long-term fellowships and collaboration with national and regional institutions in the field of outer space especially in developing countries.

8. The Group welcomes the adoption of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the able leadership of Mr. Umamaheswaran R. from India, and looks forward to further engaging with the Working Group in the next five years.

9. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform and the Space and Global Health Network, upon the recommendation of the Working Group on Space and Global Health. The Group likewise appreciates the inclusion of “Space and global health” as a permanent agenda item of the STSC, in recognition of the role of space science and technology in various health and medical applications. The Group looks forward to finalizing the draft resolution on space and global health at this session.

10. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group supports the inclusion and recognition of space as a driver of sustainable development in the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York. We thank Ambassador Facetti for facilitating the contribution of the Subcommittee to the draft Declaration. The G-77 and China in New York will also actively participate in the negotiation of this document.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.