



**STATEMENT BY HILLARY KIPKOSGEY, ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL KENYA SPACE AGENCY, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

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**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I also wish to thank your predecessor, Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso of Romania for his outstanding leadership and dedication to a successful conclusion of the previous session.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, **Mr. Niklas Hedman**, and the Secretariat, for their dedication in organizing this meeting amidst challenging times occasioned by risks to global public health.

**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. Kenya appreciates the Committee's capacity-building activities for Member States in the field of space science and technology and their applications, as well as in space law and policy, taking into account the "Space2030" Agenda and implementation plan. In this regard, we propose that the Committee, through the Office for Outer Space Affairs, considers initiating Technical Advisory Missions to developing nations, in order to ensure enabling policies are developed for sustainable utilization of space. This will support countries in taking actions towards realization of the objectives around space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.

2. Whereas the objectives and aspirations of "Space2030 Agenda" are noble and for societal benefit, the capabilities of nations to tap these depend on political will and economic power. This initiative comes at a time when new technologies have emerged and when an increasing number of participants, representing both governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector,



are becoming increasingly involved in ventures to explore and use space as well as carry out space activities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. As a developing and aspiring nation in the space sector, Kenya acknowledges the need to build capacity for development of national space legislation and effective regulatory frameworks for management and coordination of commercial space activities by non-state actors within State jurisdictions.

4. Kenya further appreciates the role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries. I am happy to report that Kenyan institutions have greatly benefitted from three tracks of "Access to Space for All" joint initiatives; the Satellite Development Track, the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track and the Space Exploration Track.

5. These opportunities have placed Kenya on the international arena of developing space-faring nations and enabled us earnestly build our capacity in space science and technology.

**Mr. Chairman**

6. The Square Kilometre Array initiative is an opportunity for Kenya to harness global expertise in astronomy, engineering and data science. In this regard, Kenya is reviving efforts to establish the proposed SKA node at the Longonot Earth Station in collaboration with partners. This project provides an opportunity for developing national capability and for international collaboration in space science.

7. The Kenyan government is investing in the space ecosystem to develop necessary infrastructure such as Ground Stations for telemetry, tracking and command services and establishing a space weather monitoring system. These projects and more can be realized through beneficial collaborations and establishing new operators and markets in the sector.

8. Additionally, Kenya supports global efforts to enhance space traffic management through establishment of relevant observation systems, and developing capacity of satellite operators to monitor and track space objects.

**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**



9. The Kenya Space Agency will host the inaugural Kenya Space Expo and Conference 2022 themed “Leveraging Space Capabilities for National Development” to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 to 17 June 2022. The main focus is space economy and utilization of space science, technologies and applications to provide solutions to socio-economic challenges and in the development of national economies.

10. The event aims to bring together players in the space ecosystem to hold discussions and exchange ideas on space opportunities, use of space applications for socio-economic development and to showcase technologies, applications, projects and innovations. We hereby extend our invitation, and would be greatly honoured, to have UNOOSA send representation to participate at the Conference.

11. In closing, Kenya is open to mutually beneficial international partnership and collaboration. We seek assistance and partnership in developing capacity in education and training in space systems and technologies, satellite design and development, manufacturing, launch operations and in the development of applications to harness space-derived data. Further, Kenya is currently reviewing its Space Policy in tandem with drafting of an enabling space legislation. We will be formally reaching out to UNOOSA to request for technical assistance.

12. **Mr. Chairman**, I reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development at national, regional and international levels.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**