



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

65th Session Vienna, Austria

1st June to 10 June 2022

Mr Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation joins other delegation in congratulating you as the new Chairman of the Committee. Please be assured of our very best wishes and support for a happy and successful tenure in charge of your new office.

We also congratulate your predecessor, Mr Marius-Ioan Piso of Romania for his outstanding leadership and dedication to a successful conclusion of the previous Session.

We also use this opportunity to compliments the high quality of preparedness made by Mr Niklas Hedman, the Acting Director of OOSA and his team of dedicated staff, for the 65th Session of the Committee.

Nigeria warmly welcomes Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as new members of the Committee.

Mr Chairman,

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E Ambassador Mohamed Hamdy Mohamed Elmolla of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group. We also align with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, distinguished Permanent Representative of Tunisia and will like to make the following statement in her National capacity.

Mr Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation reiterates the country's support to this dynamic, Committee which continues to providing support to the activities of member states in Outer Space and as well as ensuring the promotion of peaceful uses and exploration of space is achieved. Furthermore, Nigeria commends

the good work done during the deliberations of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in 2022.

Mr Chairman

Nigeria through its Space Agency remains committed to supporting the activities of other National Agencies and Institutions for the overall progress of the nation. The Agency contributes towards building human capacity and donates satellite images to institutions which will help achieve their mandates.

These recipient institutions include several Nigerian Universities, The Security Agencies, The National Emergency Management Agency and other institutions of Research and Development across the nation. These contributions have helped to provide a synergy of the activities that help to ensure Nigeria space stakeholders' expectations in terms of application of space technology to land administration and preservation, national security and safety of the citizenry among other things.

Mr Chairman,

Nigeria will continue to reiterate its commitments to the use of space science and technology for the improvement of the quality of life of its citizenry. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period, Nigeria embarked on 25 key research and development projects (Quick win projects) targeted towards this purpose. Some of such project is the completion of the Smart Emergency Management System to support Security and Health Services (GSM/GPRS+ GPS Smart Shoe), development and Implementation of Low-Cost Internet of Things (IoT) Based Farmland Irrigation, Pest Monitoring and control system and the development of a Cold Gas Thruster Propulsion System for Attitude Control.

Mr Chairman,

Nigeria wishes to reiterate her commitment to complement the efforts of the United Nations in capacity and capability building in space science and technology development in Africa. This is evident in the country's willingness to continue to host the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), which is located at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria. My delegation has always been convinced that the Centre will help strengthening indigenous human resources and maximizes the space technology spins off in Africa. In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020/2021 PGD course ran uninterrupted. The programme commenced on 15th September 2020 to 5th August, 2021 with the Prompt award of PGD Certificates.

Mr Chairman

Nigeria still continues to show its commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as well as in contributing to the safety of the outer space environment. During the year under review, The Centre for Atmospheric Research made significant impact in the promotion of research on Space Weather in the country and within the Region.

The Centre in collaboration with the Pennsylvania State University, USA initiated a national network of Air quality monitoring system in 2020. This has aided the installation P-sensor Air quality devices (in 2021) around urban and rural centres in Abuja, the University of Ilorin, University of Ibadan and the deployment of Clarity Air quality sensors to University of Maiduguri and Cross River University of Technology, which generating real time observation and measurement of particulate matter, some atmospheric variables and some environmental gases.

Mr Chairman

The nature of outer space activities further underscores the need for capacity-building, training and education towards increasing knowledge in several critical areas including the legal framework within which space activities are being carried out. Nigeria stresses the importance of capacity-building for African countries and warmly thanks South Africa for continuing to host the Africa Regional Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition organized by the International Institute of Space Law.

Finally Mr Chairman

Nigeria once again reiterates her position on equitable access to the space domain for all Nations regardless of the level of space technology development and advancement each Nation has attained.

Thank you.