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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: June, 2022**

**General Exchange of Views**

**As delivered by Head of Delegation Uri Oron at the 65th session**

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, I am honored to address the distinguished members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its Sixty-fifth session.

The Israeli delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. Omran Sharaf, on your election as chair of the Committee, and express its full cooperation and support.

**Mr. Chair,**

Israel wishes to emphasize its appreciation to COPUOS and UNOOSA as an appropriate forum for all matters related to the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space.

Recognizing the importance of this unique platform and our shared aim to increase international cooperation on space activities, I am happy to introduce some of the work that has been taking place at the Israel Space Agency and in the Israeli space sector.

The Israel Space Agency within the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology has formulated a new strategic plan for advancing the civilian space industry in Israel.

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The space industry throughout the world has been undergoing dramatic change in recent years, with space being opened up to private actors, entrepreneurs and investors, so that it has become a growing and developing market. The strategic plan is introduced against the backdrop of this dramatic change.

The plan determines that the space industry can constitute a force multiplier and leverage for significant social and economic growth, for strengthening components of science and technology, and for enhancing Israel's international standing.

Four main pillars are set by this program to advance civilian space:

- **INDUSTRY** - the strengthening and further development of the local space industry in Israel as an engine of sustainable growth, and with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship;
- **SCIENCE** - the strengthening and supporting of scientific research in the field of space, while creating new research opportunities, and building collaborations with the local space industry, academic institutions and international partners;
- **EDUCATION** - the promotion and development of human capital to strengthen and grow the space sector;

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- **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** – the further development of international partnerships, while increasing and establishing bolder and more substantial presence in key multi- and international organizations.

The major scientific and technical advances in space and the diversification and emergence of new actors, present governments with new challenges. Israel intends on continuing its fruitful collaboration with its international partners to work on these challenges together.

**Mr. Chair,**

Highlighting strong private and public collaborations in space and their importance, I would also like to update on the successful ending of the RAKIA AX-1 mission.

Through the RAKIA Mission, the Israel Space Agency and the Ramon Foundation provided scientists, entrepreneurs and educational organizations the opportunity to launch and conduct scientific experiments and technological demonstrations, carried out under micro-gravity conditions in space.

During his stay at the ISS, the Israeli citizen Eytan Stibbe completed 34 science payloads, experiments and technological demonstrations, as part of the all-private astronaut mission by Axiom Space. Some of the scientific experiments were governmentally funded for their anticipated unique scientific contribution.

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The collaboration between Mr. Stibbe and the ISS crew was remarkable and the information gathered from the studies and demonstrations is expected to have implications for many disciplines: medicine and human health, agriculture, communications, astrophysics and more.

With the objective of leveraging space to inspire youth in mind, the RAKIA mission is also a robust demonstration of how space can be made accessible and enjoyable to children. For the first time, students across Israel were exposed to an educational program at the International Space Station through an Israeli moderator via live transmissions. Space is a platform to promote youth engagement in space and "no dream is beyond reach".

**Mr. Chair,**

The State of Israel is pleased to announce that in January 2022, the Israel Space Agency signed the Artemis Accords. By joining the Artemis Accords, Israel has reaffirmed its commitment to existing obligations under relevant UN treaties, and reiterated its willingness to cooperate with other States on relevant space activities.

**Mr. Chair,**

Israel welcomes the adoption of the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, established under the Legal

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Subcommittee, and appreciates the decision to include means of coordination with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, where appropriate.

Israel would also like to refer to the Working Group on the implementation of the 21 agreed guidelines on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, established under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Israel notes that this topic includes both scientific and legal aspects. We would therefore appreciate the interaction and coordination between the two Subcommittees on this matter and support further strengthening synergies.

**Mr. Chair,**

In line with the adopted Space2030 Agenda and its overarching objectives of promoting inclusive space and STEM education, Israel would like to share its plan on broadening the scope of its 'TEVEL' – students building satellites program. In December 2021, 8 Nano satellites were launched by 250 outstanding high-school students from varying social and economic backgrounds.

The goal of this program is to encourage high school students to study and research space science so they have a sense of competence, while strengthening their engagement in space. Israel is now happy to share that it is partnering with other space agencies around the world to internationalize the program.

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Space can and should be a driver of peace and we look forward to creating more bridges between youth in the Middle East, while engaging high-schoolers in space activities and STEM education.

Israel would like to further highlight its commitment to facilitating and promoting the integration of the space sector with other sectors, including energy, public health, the environment and the management of Earth's resources. Israel, and particularly the Israel Space Agency, promotes intra-ministerial and inter-agency collaborations to increase the role of space-based applications as drivers of sustainable development.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to address the situation in Ukraine. Israel reiterates its position which condemns the Russian invasion into Ukraine and the serious escalation in the situation in the past months. There is no justification for violating Ukrainian sovereignty and killing innocent civilians. We call upon Russia to end its attack and resolve this conflict around the negotiations table. We hope this tragedy will end as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Chair,**

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My delegation wishes you and the distinguished delegates of COPUOS, participating near and far, a fruitful and successful session.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**