



Agenda Item 4

General Exchange of View

Delivered by

Federal Republic of Nigeria

66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space.

Vienna, 31st May -9th, June, 2023

Chairman,

1. My delegation wishes to commend your efforts at steering the affairs of this Committee in a most efficient way. I would like to reassure you of our continued support and cooperation as you preside over this Session.
2. We further use this opportunity to compliment the high quality of preparedness made by Mr. Niklas Hedman, the Acting Director of OOSA and his team of dedicated staff, for the 66th Session of the Committee.
3. Nigeria warmly welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Nigeria also aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. We also align with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and will like to make the following statement in her National capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Nigerian delegation reiterates its 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. Furthermore, Nigeria commends the good work done during the deliberations of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in 2023.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Nigeria's Venture into Space is not a mere adventure or coincidence, but a pursuit of new strategies and solutions to numerous problems targeted at enhancing the quality of life of the common man. Such ventures include the way we manage our resources and environment as well as our social lives. It was indeed a deliberate and strategic approach to tackle the numerous socio-economic problems facing the Nation. To this effect, Mr. Chairman, My delegation is pleased to inform you that Nigeria launched the GEO Nigeria in May, 2023. This initiative will enhance Nigeria's participation in, and contribution to, GEOSS geared at attaining sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegate

7. Nigeria, through the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for English speaking African countries (ARCSSTE-E), will continue to complement the efforts of the United Nation to develop indigenous capacity and maximize the benefits of space technology in the developing countries. I am pleased to inform you that in the 24 years of the establishment of the Centre, a total of 601 postgraduate students from 19 English Speaking countries in Africa have been trained.

8. In addition Mr. Chairman, the Center will be organizing the 7th edition of the International Colloquium on Equatorial and Low-Latitude Ionosphere from 4th to 8th September 2023 in Nigeria. The forum shall serve as an effective meeting point for global scientists, policy makers, students and designers of space-dependent technologies. This year's edition is being co-organized with the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics PRESTO/SCOSTEP, UN-International Space Weather Initiative; Institute for Space-Earth Environmental Research (ISEE); Nagoya University, Japan; Network of Space-Earth Environmentalist (NSEE), University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics; and the African Geophysical Society.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Nigeria continues to also host the West and Central African Regional Support Offices (RSO) for the implementation of the UN-SPIDER programme. The Office has continued to perform its duties in accordance with the stipulated mandates to promote the use of space technologies in disaster risk management, emergency response and recovery efforts within the Region. We will like to use this opportunity to commend UNOOSA and all the other development partners for all their support in ensuring that the Office is adequately capable of discharging it duties at all times.

Mr. Chairman,

10. In recognition of the strategic and central economic role space science, technology and innovation plays in global economy, Nigeria will be organizing the maiden edition of Africa Space Economy Conference from the 16th-20th October, 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria with the theme: "Exploring Space Economy for Africa's Growth". On behalf of my delegation, I am inviting all COPUOS member states to

this event. Details of the event is available on the conference website: <https://www.afrispaceeco.org/>.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

11. 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.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Nigeria will continue to show its commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as such is recognized as a very important tool in the realization of its Space Policy and Programme. To this effect, Nigeria signed the Artemis Accords in 2022 with the conviction that the Accord will not only strengthen space exploration, but enhance peaceful relationships between nations in uses of outer space.

Finally Chairman

13. Nigeria would like to emphasize the need for the exploration and uses of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and also calls on the prevention of the weaponization of the outer space and to preserve peace and security to the benefit of human kind.

Thank you.