

## **Philippines, Item 8**

### **66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Philippine Statement**

Mister Chair,

On behalf of the Philippines, we wish to extend our appreciation to you, Mister Chair Omran Sharaf of United Arab Emirates, and to the dedicated staff at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), for the excellent preparations for this year's session.

The Philippines reaffirms our commitment to continue exploring and maximizing the opportunities offered by the global space community towards further developing our space capabilities that will ensure a safe, stable, and sustainable outer space. Along with these aspirations is our abiding commitment to pursue our national space programs while upholding the long-term sustainability goals and other guidelines set by UN regarding space activities.

In October 2022, the Philippines hosted the Technical Advisory Mission for the Space Law for New Space Actors Program of UNOOSA. We have taken the learnings of that mission imparted to key government agencies in the Philippines and currently applying them as we develop the governance framework of outer space activities in the Philippines, specifically as a launching state or as possible launch site. We thank UNOOSA, the government of Japan, and the expert speakers for bringing the program to the country.

We participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in the Second Phase of the National Space Legislation Initiative in 2022. Together with the other participants i.e. Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam, we have prepared the report that has been submitted as a working paper in this 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN COPUOS. With this report, we are building collaboration among nations by sharing information about our national space frameworks. We thank APRSAF for the effective management of the NSLI that has produced the report to enrich our global legal resource about space legislation.

Domestically, we have gained much progress towards creating a standard and national response to incidents of orbital debris that fall anywhere on the Philippine territory and where we exercise jurisdiction. We have achieved this through a whole-of-government approach by building close communication and coordination mechanisms among concerned government agencies.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to share with my distinguished colleagues that since the creation of our Technical Working Group on Orbital Debris Protocols, we have fleshed out common

issues experienced on the ground. The said Group will build more efficient and effective inter-agency cooperation to address the threats from orbital debris incidents. It also serves as an advisory body for the coordination, discussion, formulation, and integration of strategies, protocols, guidelines, and similar mechanisms. Thus, it promotes and ensures appropriate responses to rocket launches and other outer space activities that can pose risks to the Philippines and the region.

With the rapid progress in space science and technology applications and the emergence of space-capable nations and actors, we believe that all space actors have a responsibility in advancing our sustainable goals. The goal is to seek solutions to reduce the threats from space debris and install measures to minimize them. Towards this goal, the Philippines is also actively contributing to the discussions on establishing norms and principles of responsible behaviors in outer space.

Finally, Mr. Chair, we encourage the dialogue with all actors in the global space community to be more committed and proactive in adherence to the norms and principles, which will utilize and promote the peaceful uses and sustainability of outer space activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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