

## **Check Against Delivery**

### **Agenda Item No.5: Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes**

#### **Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates**

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to address the sixty-sixth session of UNCOPUOS under its agenda item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

The progressive development and maintenance of space operations for peaceful and non-aggressive purposes is vital to guaranteeing security and long-term sustainability of global space activities. Pakistan recognizes that meaningful international dialogue is essential for enhancing transparency, predictability, and confidence among member states by preventing the possibility of misperception, disinformation, misunderstanding, and miscalculation.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

As a party to all the five 'core' United Nations space treaties, Pakistan is strongly committed to the principle of peaceful uses of outer space and the preservation of the fragile space environment for the collective benefit of all humankind. We believe that adherence to United Nations Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, United Nations Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Space Services and Radio Regulations are paramount in ensuring the peaceful exploration and utilization of this global commons.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

Pakistan reiterates its unwavering support for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). We firmly believe that responsible behaviour in outer space is crucial for maintaining peace and stability and any militarization or weaponization of space poses a significant threat to international peace and security. Therefore, we call upon all nations to exercise utmost restraint and abstain from the deployment of any weapons or systems that may lead to an arms race in outer space. It is imperative that we preserve outer space as a sanctuary for peaceful endeavors and scientific exploration.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

Pakistan recognizes the pressing issue of mega-constellations and their impact on maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space. We firmly believe that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) has a pivotal role in addressing this challenge. Mega constellations present concerns such as space debris proliferation, interference with existing satellite systems, and potential conflicts with other space activities. COPUOS can play a significant role in this regard by promoting international cooperation and dialogue to develop comprehensive guidelines and standards for the responsible deployment and operation of mega-constellations. By fostering collaboration among space-faring nations and commercial entities, COPUOS can ensure the sustainable utilization of outer space, while safeguarding the peaceful and secure environment for all. Pakistan encourages COPUOS to actively engage in discussions, research, and policy formulation to address the issues posed by mega-constellations and contribute to the peaceful and beneficial exploration of outer space.

**Mr. Chairman**

Pakistan acknowledges the potential benefits of commercial space activities in advancing scientific research, technological innovation, and economic growth. However, it is crucial to ensure that these activities are conducted in a manner that is consistent with international law, promotes responsible behavior, and preserves the peaceful nature of outer space. The COPUOS can play a vital role in this regard by facilitating dialogue and cooperation among states, commercial entities, and other stakeholders. COPUOS can contribute by developing guidelines, standards, and best practices that address the challenges associated with the commercialization of outer space, including issues of space debris and fair access to space resources. By promoting transparency, accountability, and the peaceful coexistence of commercial and non-commercial activities, COPUOS can help ensure that outer space remains a realm of peace, cooperation, and equitable benefits for all nations.

**Mr. Chairman**

Pakistan also underscores the significance of international cooperation in addressing the challenges related to outer space. We recognize the vital role of the COPUOS in facilitating global dialogue and collaboration in space-related matters. We reaffirm our support for COPUOS and its subcommittees in their efforts to promote peaceful uses of outer space, encourage capacity-building initiatives, and foster international cooperation in space activities.

**Mr. Chairman**

In conclusion, Pakistan emphasizes the need for a collective commitment to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. We urge all states to actively support the prevention of an arms race in outer space, adhere to the long-term sustainability guidelines, and actively engage in space debris mitigation efforts. We reiterate our support for COPUOS and invite all nations to join hands in fostering international cooperation to ensure the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space for the betterment of humanity.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman**

----- End of Statement -----