

**66th Session of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Statement by

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Item 4: General Exchange of Views

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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 the occasion of its Sixty-sixth session.

The Israeli delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. Omran Sharaf, for your leadership as Chair of the Committee, as well as Mr. Niklas Hedman, UNOOSA Acting Director, for the excellent preparation of this meeting and for the exceptional work through the years and assure you of Israel's full cooperation and support.

Israel is pleased to welcome the new Member States of the Committee: Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

Mr. Chair,

Israel wishes to emphasize yet again its appreciation to COPUOS as an appropriate forum for all matters related to the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space, recognizing its relevance and continued importance as a multilateral platform for international cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

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 this past year.

Outer space can play a significant role in addressing global challenges, and in particular in tackling the global climate crisis. In line with the adopted '**Space2030 Agenda**' and its Overarching Objective 1: "**enhancing space-derived economic benefits and strengthening the role of the space sector as a major driver of sustainable development**", Israel works to integrate the space sector within other sectors, such as information technology, communications, resource management and climate change.

By building a 'Space Knowledge Center', the Israel Space Agency is currently developing multi-stakeholder partnerships, aimed at creating applicable space-based knowledge, which will eventually be available for relevant policy makers, in areas such as climate change, food security, disaster management and environmental protection.

A year from today, we hope to offer data generated from space to a diverse range of users, in the form of practical knowledge, in support of decisions relating to resource management and environmental protection. The space knowledge platform will provide scientists, scholars, public and private entities, start-ups, and community members with access to space data to develop solutions for national and global challenges. This will no doubt promote the development of the local space industry, as well as increase awareness for the positive benefits and uses of outer space.

Israel has also began working on its own national space legislation. The legislation is expected to reflect international obligations and standards with respect to space activities, and is expected to support Israel's growing space sector.

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 diverse social and economic backgrounds. In 2023, this program is launched with nine new communities, nine new groups that will eventually launch satellites.

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. While high-school students are the ones building the satellites, the effects of the program are felt throughout wider circles in their communities, spreading pride and a sense of accomplishment, and most importantly – the love for space.

The students and their teachers will join a growing and thriving Israeli space community. The 'Israel Space Agency Community of Space Educators' is comprised of 250 individuals with a particular interest in space education. 250 teachers, school

directors, researchers and industry experts that dedicate their time to learning about space and spreading knowledge. The community meets on a monthly basis and receive training and tools. The network spreads by generating and supporting locally led space-related initiatives.

Mr. Chair,

Israel extends the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Canadian Space Agency its warmest wishes as it prepares to host the 2023 Space4Women Expert Meeting this fall. The Government of the State of Israel is committed to co-hosting this important and impactful event in September 2024.

Mr. Chair,

As mentioned in previous sessions, the State of Israel is a signatory of the Artemis Accords. By joining the Artemis Accords, Israel has reaffirmed its commitment to existing obligations deriving from its membership in space UN treaties, and reiterated its willingness to cooperate with other States on relevant space activities, in a safe, sustainable and responsible manner. Israel will work with NASA over the upcoming months to increase its cooperation on future Artemis missions.

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 Subcommittee, and appreciates the decision to include means of coordination with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, where appropriate. Israel is of the view that the synchronization between both committees should be strengthened.

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 as well and support further strengthening synergies.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Israel would like to highlight the importance of regional developments, specifically the Abraham accords, in strengthening and maintaining stability in the Middle East and in promoting collaborations in the peaceful use of outer space. In December 2022, the President of Israel Isaac Herzog delivered an historical keynote speech at the Abu Dhabi Space Debate in the United Arab Emirates, noting that it is "critical that we deepen and expand such transnational partnerships, for the benefit of our planet and our region".

Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes you and the distinguished delegates a fruitful and successful session.

Thank you for your attention.