



## **Statement of APSCO Delegation**

**at the Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**31 May to 9 June 2023**

**Boardroom D of the Vienna International Centre**

**Vienna, Austria**

### **Agenda Item 4. General Exchange of Views**

**Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item No. 4. General Exchange of Views, at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation has full trust and confidence in your leadership to steer this committee, and we extend our full support to you and the work of COPUOS. We also extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the acting Director of UNOOSA, and his team, for very efficient planning, and successfully organizing this session.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

APSCO is an inter-governmental international organization devoted on tapping regional resources, promoting multilateral cooperation in space science, technology and applications and capacity building in space related fields. It provides a cooperative mechanism for countries to work together for the development of collaborative space programs & space capabilities. APSCO currently has eleven Member States. That include 8 full Member (Bangladesh, China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, and Türkiye) one Signatory Member: Indonesia (ratification in process), one Associate Member: Egypt (ratification in process) and two Observers: Mexico and ISNET (Inter-Islamic network on Space Science and Technology). China is the host country for APSCO and the Headquarters of APSCO is located in Beijing, China. APSCO also has cooperative partnerships with various countries and

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international organizations. We have more than 24 MOUS and Agreements in international cooperation.

**Mr. Chair,**

APSCO has been actively participating at the UNCOPUOS and its sub committees' s meeting since its inception in 2008. APSCO strongly supports international cooperation especially through UNOOSA mechanism, and we are open to cooperate with international space community for peaceful uses of outer space.

During the Leadership Development Forum of APSCO in November 2022, the leader from APSCO Member States released a joint statement in which they emphasized that the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) can act as a central body for making the rules and laws in space. Its scope and mandate should focus on encompassing new challenges in the modern space age and on cooperation, dialogue, and win-win principles, which is the only way to deal with the complex and diverse challenges of the current space age.

**Mr. Chair,**

The rule of law in space can help ensure the sustainable, secure, and peaceful utilization of outer space that can benefit all humanity and we believe that the long-term sustainability of outer space is an essential principle for ensuring the continuation of humankind's collective benefits. APSCO, as an international, intergovernmental, and regional organization, ensures enlarging its efforts for cooperation to promote capacity building and understanding of its Member States and contribute to developing relevant regulations, policies, and practices to ensure the sustainability of outer space for present and future generations.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

APSCO strongly adheres to the importance of strengthening international collaboration, promoting United Nations treaties on outer space, fostering fair access to space' encouraging knowledge-sharing initiatives, and focusing on ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end.

Some of the recent activities of APSCO that contribute to the agenda an objective of the UNCOPUOS include:

- Under the APSCO 5-Year Project Implementation Plan (2021-2025) that supplements realization of the 10-Year Plan, there are 34 projects included in the fields of Space Science, Technology and

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Applications, Space Education, Training and Capacity Building.

- As a basic facility for sharing space-derived data, and promoting application of satellite remote sensing, the APSCO Data Sharing Service Platform (DSSP) has been actively utilized through 35 Certified Users in all APSCO Member States. The upgraded version of the Platform can provide Earth-observation data in more extensive and responsive manner.
- APSCO has initiated cooperation for space exploration for its Member State and welcome international partners APSCO Working Group for Joint Study on International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) initiative. More than 50 experts and scholars from APSCO Member States have joined the team.
- For disaster monitoring and management, APSCO has established a Charter-like emergency response mechanism among our members.
- In the Domain of Space Science and space observation, a number of networks with measurement nodes distributed in Asia-Pacific are now in operation.

Furthermore, I would like to share that the 2<sup>nd</sup> APSCO Leadership Development forum shall be held back-to-back with the 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of APSCO in Cusco, Peru from 13-17 November 2023. The leadership forum shall provide a high-level platform to carry dialogue and discussion on contemporary issues and the potential role of developing countries in space domain.

I thank you all for your attention.

**Yu Qi (Ms.)**

Secretary-General

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)