

## **Agenda Item 14: Space Exploration and Innovation**

### **Republic of Korea**

#### **Sixty-Sixth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**June 8, 2023**

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Thank you, Chair.

Recognizing the importance of space exploration and its ripple effects that derive from it, the Republic of Korea plans to formulate policies and support private space activities to advance space exploration.

With a nearly 30-year history of space development, Korea became the seventh country to explore the Moon with the launch of the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLLO) last August.

KPLLO arrived in lunar orbit in December and will conduct a comprehensive study of the lunar surface for approximately a year. As introduced in a technical presentation last Friday, KPLLO will carry out a science and engineering mission with six payloads, including a gamma ray spectrometer, a wide-angle polarimetric camera, and NASA's ShadowCam.

Korea has already released stunning images of Earth taken by KPLLO, and its scientific data will be made available to scientists around the world, contributing to relevant scientific research.

Building upon the success of KPLLO as the first step in space exploration, Korea last year announced the "Space Economy Roadmap" and the "4th Basic Plan for Promoting Space Development" as follow-up plans to advance space exploration.

Korea has set national goals, including the launch of an unmanned lunar lander in 2032 to verify soft-landing technology and explore the lunar surface, as well as landing on Mars by 2045. We are also preparing a space exploration roadmap to establish a more long-term national strategy.

To bolster its space exploration capabilities, Korea aims to expand its infrastructure and aims to foster increased private sector participation, recognizing that public-private cooperation can lead to more innovative space exploration technologies. Accordingly, Korea plans to expand institutional support for private sector space activities.

The Republic of Korea also recognizes that cooperation with the international community is essential for peaceful and sustainable space exploration activities. As a signatory to the Artemis Accords, Korea actively participates in the discussions of the Artemis Working Group.

As a member of ISECG, Korea is also involved in discussions on inter-agency cooperation in space exploration, particularly through its activities in the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) Emerging Countries Working Group. In addition, Korea will host an ISECG workshop and Senior Agency Management (SAM) meeting later this year. Korea hopes to expand international cooperation in future lunar, Mars and deep space exploration projects.

The Republic of Korea hopes to continuously contribute to global space exploration and scientific goals through peaceful and sustainable space exploration activities.

Thank you, Chair.

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