



Statement of APSCO Delegation

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

Vienna, 19–28 June 2024

M-Building, M-Plenary room

Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

Agenda Item 15. Space exploration and innovation

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. 15. Space exploration and innovation.

Mr. Chair,

Space exploration, including lunar and mars exploration are listed as the key areas of cooperation in the new Development Plan on Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030), which was approved by the 14th Council Meeting of APSCO in 2020. In line with the Development Plan,

“APSCO shall carry out basic research and advanced research on development of science and technical means for space exploration, In conjunction with the Moon, Mars and other international planetary exploration programs, APSCO should also develop equipment and infrastructure for studies in astronomy, astrophysics, astrochemistry, astrobiology and cosmology to extend knowledge sharing and capacity building of the member states and region.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

- APSCO has initiated various cooperation activities in space exploration and welcome international partners to work with us.
- A dedicated Working Group has been established for Joint Study on International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). More than 50 experts and scholars from APSCO Member States

have joined the team.

- In the year 2022, APSCO opened opportunity for its Member States to send a payload/cubesat aboard on Chang'e-6 lunar mission of China. On 3rd May 2024, the Chang E' 6 Mission was launched and the Pakistan's cubesat, ICUBE-Q was launched as a payload, which marked the first initiative of Member State Pakistan in Lunar Exploration.
- APSCO has also opened more opportunities for its members to send more payloads on upcoming Chang'e-8 mission of China.
- Besides, in April 2024, APSCO organized the Second International Workshop on International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) in Wuhan China, and two extensive training courses, one in Pakistan in March 2024 on the "Development of Cubesat ICUBE-Q for Lunar Mission" and second training on Lunar and Planetary Science in China in April.
- Also, APSCO and China National Space Administration (CNSA) have signed the Cooperation MOU on International Lunar Research Station on 24 April, 2024.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In line with the APSCO Work Plan 2024, the following activities are planned this year:

- Two more Training Courses on "From Pure Science to Space Realities" in the end of June and Coherent Design Facility training in November shall be organized in Beijing, China
- The 3rd Workshop on ILRS Mission Concepts will be organized in September in Huangshan, China.
- Intermittent Joint Working Group Meeting of member states on ILRS will be held online this year.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO's initiatives supports and are in line with the Thematic priority 1: Global partnership in space exploration and innovation, under Space 2030 Agenda. APSCO Activities in space exploration directly contribute to:

- raising awareness of space exploration and innovation
- fostering the development of human capital in the areas of space exploration and innovation
- integrating developing countries into space exploration initiatives
- providing open and inclusive opportunities at regional and global level
- and inspiring and encouraging young generation in space exploration.

I thank you all for your attention.

Aisha Jagirani (Ms.)

Director General, External Relations and Legal Affairs Department

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)