

Agenda Item 15: Space Exploration and Innovation

Republic of Korea National Statement

Sixty-Seventh Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

June 19, 2024

Thank you, Chair.

The Republic of Korea, as the 10th signatory of the Artemis Accords, successfully launched the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO) in August 2022, beginning regular operations in January 2023. This achievement made the Republic of Korea the seventh country in the world to enter lunar orbit and KPLO would conduct its mission until December 2025.

In line with established norms and practices of space exploration and scientific community, Outer Space Treaty as well as the Artemis Accords' principle, "Release of Scientific Data", we began sharing KPLO's scientific data from January this year. This initiative underscores our commitment to contributing to the scientific advancement of all humanity through our exploration activities.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea supports the Artemis crewed lunar landing mission and lunar resource exploration, which are essential for deep space exploration. In particular, we are utilizing various payloads, including the United States' ShadowCam. Also, our own payload "Lunar Space

Environment Monitor (LUSEM)” will be launched aboard Intuitive Machines' Nova-C lander as part of NASA's commercial lunar payload services program in 2025.

Chair,

As a country that has successfully conducted three collision avoidance maneuvers with the KPLO and plans to achieve lunar landing by 2032, we firmly believe that safe and sustainable space exploration is essential, and that this Committee should serve as a platform for relevant discussions.

In this context, the Republic of Korea not only welcomes Romania's proposal to establish “Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)” but also wishes to co-sponsor the proposal. It is worth noting that we are also considering providing financial support for ATLAC's activities. We strongly believe that the initiative would enhance the role of the Committee in ensuring safe and sustainable lunar exploration, and call on other countries to join this initiative.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight that our ambitions for space exploration extend beyond the Moon. With the establishment of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) this May, we would establish plan for new space exploration and space science missions, such as the L4 heliosphere observatory and asteroid exploration.

The Republic of Korea reiterates its commitment to ensuring a

sustainable future through space exploration and international collaboration.

Thank you.