Statement by Thailand

Agenda item 15. Space exploration and innovation 67th Session of Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 19-28 June 2024

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Thailand has, in recent years, placed a growing emphasis on the development of space technology. We are committed to building and strengthening our capabilities in this exciting field.

On April 5th, 2024, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand signed two Memorandums of understanding with China National Space Administration (CNSA). These agreements focus on "Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes" and "Cooperation in International Lunar Research Station". Thailand views this collaboration as an opportunity to contribute to advancements in deep space technology, particularly in areas such as lunar and Martian exploration, space missions related to the International Lunar Research Station, and Space Situational Awareness as well as Space Traffic Management. We believe these joint efforts will not only enhance scientific understanding but also foster human resource development in crucial sectors.

Investing in essential infrastructure for space activities remains a priority for Thailand. In this spirit, we partnered with the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) to conduct a Feasibility Study on the Establishment of Spaceport in Thailand. This study, now successfully completed, identifies potential locations, operational models, and services for the spaceport, including valuable knowledge on launch vehicles and related engineering. We believe a Thai spaceport has the potential to become a powerful engine for our future economy and serve as a metaphorical "front door" for our nation's exploration of the universe. The feasibility study will prove instrumental in guiding policy decisions and planning subsequent space programs.

At the end of last year, the National Space Policy Committee of Thailand approved the proposal on Thailand joining the Artemis Accords, the principle to guide sustainable civil space exploration and use, initiated by the United States. The proposal on signing the accord will be proposed to the cabinet soon. We recognize the potential of lunar missions to not only provide us with new knowledge about Earth and space but also to further strengthen our space technology capabilities.

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A robust space exploration program requires a strong foundation of national understanding and support. Space exploration offers a multitude of benefits – from fostering innovative technologies that can improve our daily lives to creating exciting new business opportunities. Ultimately, Thailand envisions a space program driven by peaceful intentions, one that delivers positive outcomes for all humanity. We hope that future space exploration missions will continue to cultivate curiosity in the next generation, inspiring them to reach beyond even what we can currently imagine.

Thank you
