

67<sup>th</sup> Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS)

**Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

Agenda item 15: Space exploration and innovation

Dear Mr. Chair, distinguished Delegates,

The UAE recognizes the importance of space technologies, and its essential role not only in understating our universe, but also enhancing our life on earth. The UAE develops its space exploration program for peaceful use of outer space in alignment with international law, and in collaboration with our international partners.

The UAE Space Exploration program includes several projects, such as the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM), the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt, the Astronaut program, and the Artemis Lunar Gateway project.

In March of 2023, as part of Expedition 69 mission astronaut Dr. Sultan Al Neyadi became the first Arab astronaut to serve on the International Space Station (ISS) for a 6-month mission, and the first Arab astronaut to perform a spacewalk. During his time on aboard the ISS Astronaut Al Neyadi, conducted of over 4,000 hours, and participated in 20+ research experiments and studies in wide range of scientific topics, in collaboration with international space agencies such as NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and local universities such as the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences. Astronaut Al Neyadi's mission demonstrates a great example of international collaboration, and reemphasizing the importance of international partnership to achieve mutual goals in the field of space exploration.

Mr. Chair,

We are pleased to inform the esteemed committee of the recent developments regarding the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt (EMA), a successor to the Emirates Mars Mission, that aims to explore seven main belt asteroids and land on Justitia, with scientific objectives including understanding the origins and evolution of water-rich asteroids and evaluating their potential as resources for future space missions. In February of 2024, the UAE Space Agency conducted the preliminary design review which marks a major milestone for the mission, ensuring its success.

Partnership is a crucial aspect of space projects, playing a critical role in achieving success. With the EMA mission we expanded strategic partnerships with public, private, and academic entities locally such as Khalifa University, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC) at the UAE University, the Technology Innovation Institute (TII), Yahsat. In addition, international partners such as the Italian Space Agency, the University of Colorado Boulder, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University.

As part of our commitment develop national capabilities in the field of space exploration, the UAE Space Agency hosted the 'Space Means Business' workshop to engage local and space companies in the mission, where highlighted opportunities on different segments offered by the mission. Furthermore, through initiatives such as the Space Economic Zones, the National Space Fund, and the National Space Academy, the continues UAE develops the next generation of scientists and engineers, ensuring the sustainability and growth of our national space program.

Mr. Chair,

In January of 2024, the UAE announced its participation in the Lunar Gateway program, in operating the station's Airlock module joining partners from NASA, JAXA, Canadian Space Agency, and ESA. This significant collaboration emphasizes our commitment to advancing space exploration to the moon

In May of 2024, hosted by the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal, the UAE Space Agency participated the Artemis Accords Workshop. During workshop, participants from 24 countries engaged in discussions and conducted a tabletop exercise centered on further defining and implementing key tenets, including considering views on non-interference, interoperability, and scientific data sharing among nations. We would like to this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our Canadian colleagues for the excellent organization of the workshop.

Building on the valuable lessons learned from the 'Rashid' Lunar Rover mission, we are pleased to inform the esteemed committee that the UAE has begun developing the 'Rashid 2' mission by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center.

In conclusion, the UAE reaffirms its dedication to advancing space exploration and innovation, and we look forward to continuing our contributions to the global space community and fostering international cooperation.

Thank you.