

Statement by Norway to the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under agenda item 16: “Space2030” Agenda

Chair,

Norway views the Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation Plan as a highly relevant tool for the attainment of the global development agendas.

Through Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), we will continue to provide the world with free access to high-resolution satellite images to support efforts to document environmental crime and stop the destruction of the world’s rainforests. As announced during COP28 in Dubai last year, we will do so in partnership with the Bezos Earth Fund.

We also continue our work under the Blue Justice Initiative, in partnership with UNDP. Blue Justice is a global initiative for practitioners addressing transnational organized crime in illegal fishing. The aim is to strengthen the government agencies needed to address this problem. Currently around 60 countries have joined Blue Justice.

In September last year the Blue Justice Ocean Surveillance Programme (BJOSP) was launched. Through this Programme, governmental agencies can access satellite data from the digital platform for cooperation - *Blue Justice Community* - from the Norwegian Coastal Administration. Blue Justice marked its 5th year anniversary last week, with a four days training workshop in Oslo, Norway where representatives from 27 different Blue Justice Countries were present.

In order to provide broadband coverage in the Arctic, north of the 65th latitude, the Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM) is scheduled to be launched next month.

Chair,

Satellite data and capacities are increasingly realized as core tools for Norway’s foreign and development policies, which is underlined by making satellite-based services a basis for Norwegian climate and international development efforts and one of the priorities for the Norwegian Space Agency in 2024 and onwards.

Producing high quality satellite data is, however, only a first step: the critical point is access, and then to provide good products and reliable services. Therefore, we must collaborate to ensure that space data contributes to ensure that effective environmental policy becomes a digital public good. We will also need to facilitate data access for a broader user community, allowing them to have ownership to the process of turning the data into value-added products and services.

As for our domestic measures, Norway is a participating state in Copernicus, the European Union’s earth observation programme. Copernicus is enabling us to monitor the environment and effects of climate change in remote, vast ocean areas and the Arctic. Polar regions are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and it is of global importance to document,

understand and prevent negative effects in these regions. The Norwegian Space Agency administers national funding to enhance our user uptake and societal benefit of Copernicus, resulting in national capacity building and locally adapted services such as the Glacier and ice monitoring service and the Ground motion service for Norway.

Furthermore, in order to enhance existing registration practices, the responsibility of maintaining the national Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space has been transferred from the Norwegian Space Agency to the Civil Aviation Authority, which is the designated national space authority in Norway.

In conclusion, Chair, Norway is participating in the important work taking place in the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability, and are in the process of considering how best to implement the guidelines on a national level.

Thank you Chair.