

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the
67th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
(COPUOS)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by congratulating you, Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky, upon your election as the Chairperson of the Committee for the year 2024 and congratulate the newly elected members of the Bureau of the Committee, Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti and Mr. Hasan Abbas. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

We warmly welcome Director Aarti Holla-Maini to her first COPUOS session as the Director of UNOOSA and we reiterate our full support to her and the UNOOSA team in their efforts to further advance the space agenda globally and promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

Outer space is a universal value and a common good belonging to all humankind. Therefore, space activities shall be carried out in accordance with principles of non-appropriation, universal and non-discriminatory access to outer space for all states, and the sustainable and responsible exploration of space resources.

Armenia is committed to the peaceful exploration of outer space and supports COPUOS and its two Subcommittees as the unique platforms for further developing the international space law, and for discussions over the legal framework for outer space governance, and exploration, exploitation and usage of space resources.

While the five UN outer space treaties, which Armenia signed and ratified, constitute the cornerstone of the legal regime governing the peaceful uses of outer space, the non-legally binding instruments, such as the Long-term sustainability (LTS) guidelines and space debris mitigation guidelines, are equally essential for shaping national space policies and activities.

The significant increase in the number and diversity of actors involved in outer space activities resulted in new challenges to the safety, security and sustainability of outer space, the most pressing issues being that of space debris, space traffic regulation, management of outer space and space resource activities. We look forward to continued discussions on these urgent topics and welcome the various initiatives in this regard.

The Summit of the Future, to be held later this year, provides a timely opportunity to continue our deliberations on space governance and sustainability. We express our gratitude to Germany and Namibia for facilitating the discussions on the Pact for the Future and welcome the extensive engagement of civil society and youth organizations in the discussions.

In this context we also acknowledge the central role of the UNOOSA and that of the Committee, whose accumulated expertise and various tools could be put to the service and benefit of member states, especially developing states and the new space actors. We look forward to the reflection of these important concepts in the Pact for the Future.

Mr. Chairman,

Development of national space related capacities, and space science and technology are among the priorities of the Armenian government.

The launch of the first Armenian satellite in 2022 bolstered significant interest towards space, especially among youth. As a result, on 1 December 2023, the Hayasat-1, the first-ever satellite designed and manufactured by Armenian scientists and engineers, was launched into space.

To further develop the national aerospace engineering capacities Armenia launched the first Space Master programme, “Aerospace Engineering”, which combines professional courses with practical components and involves laboratory and research activities.

Armenian research institutions such as Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies, alongside private organizations, play a crucial role in advancing space science and technology in Armenia. Their contributions

span across diverse fields, including cosmology, cosmic microwave studies, climate research, nanosatellite technology, and the analysis of Earth observation data.

We appreciate the contribution of UN-affiliated space centres to building the capacity of developing states and making space science and technology education accessible globally. With this in mind, Armenia joined the Board of Governors of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, hosted by India, marking an important milestone in advancing Armenia's national space capacities and opening new opportunities for Armenian students and young professionals in the area of space science and technology.

Another important undertaking was hosting of the AMADEE-24 Mars simulation analog field mission in April-May, which brought together 200 scientists from 26 countries who conducted various experiments in the fields of geoscience and robotics and explored limitations and advantages of future human planetary missions. The site of the mission, the Armash region of Armenia, was selected for its geological and topographic similarity to Mars.

We are also pleased to announce that on 12 June this year Armenia signed the Artemis Accords. This is a significant development as by signing these accords Armenia joins a community of nations, which are united by the common dedication to a peaceful exploration and use of outer space to the benefit of all nations and the endeavour to advance the frontiers of human knowledge and capability in space. We are confident that our involvement will not only enhance our technological capabilities by leveraging space technologies for socio-economic development but also inspire a new generation of Armenians to innovate and explore the world and universe.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach particular importance to developing effective national capacities for using the space-based information and satellites observation data in the area of disaster management and mitigation of climate change impact.

In this regard the UN-SPIDER is an important framework, where the application of space technologies could help national authorities in their disaster risk reduction and disaster management efforts.

The swift preliminary analysis of the damage caused by the floods in Lori and Tavush Provinces of Armenia by United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) exemplifies the critical role of remote sensing technologies, Earth observation data, and the development of geospatial intelligence tools in responding to natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that enhancing space-derived economic benefits, promoting the development of space industry, facilitating the integration of the space sector into other sectors, such as energy, public health, environment, etc., and leveraging space-related innovations to improve the quality of life on Earth will bring us closer to achieving the sustainable development goals and the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

In conclusion, we once again reiterate Armenia's support to you and we look forward to a fruitful session.

Thank you.