

Bangladesh Statement
at the 67th Session of the United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer
Space (COPUOS)
by H.E. Mr. Asad Alam Siam
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
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Agenda Item 5: General exchange of views

Mr. Chair,

At the beginning, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 67th Session of COPUOS and assure you of our full support.

I also thank Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, Director, and the Secretariat for arranging this session successfully.

Bangladesh associates itself with the statement of the G-77 and China and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity:

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge the critical role of COPUOS in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. For a shared and sustainable future, we must work together to ensure the exploration and use of the outer space for peaceful purposes only, benefitting all countries and 'leaving no one behind'.

In the light of the UNGA resolution containing the 'Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries' as a guiding document, we strongly emphasize international collaboration in the development of space activities.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh fully recognizes the importance of space science and technology, and their applications, in achieving the 2030 Agenda. We believe that all activities in outer space must be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, regardless of their level of economic or scientific development.

We also reaffirm our firm stance against militarization of the outer space. We urge all member states to refrain from and to prevent an arms race in outer space. We believe that all countries should follow the UN Charter for outer space, the principle of non-appropriation, democratization of the access to space, equitability in utilization of space knowledge and resources without any conditionality. Space is our common heritage and therefore we advocate against polluting the outer space.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to report that Bangladesh launched its first satellite, Bangabandhu-1 in 2018. This is a geostationary communications and broadcasting satellite which covers Bangladesh, SAARC countries, and other neighbors. In line with the 'SMART Bangladesh' initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the satellite has been providing telecommunication, broadcasting, VSAT facilities, DTH, banking services, distance learning, telemedicine services, etc.

Our government has initiated preparations for launching Bangabandhu-2 satellite for earth observation, precision agriculture, resource management, environmental monitoring, urban mapping, disaster management, surveillance of the maritime territories, etc.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh is ready to work closely with COPUOS and UNOOSA on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 'Space 2030 Agenda', universal and equal access to outer space, international cooperation, strengthening the capacity of the developing countries in utilizing space applications, and enhanced inclusivity in space affairs.

As a new member of COPUOS, we seek technical cooperation from all other members in building our space capability. In this context, we thank UNOOSA for supporting Bangladesh in disaster management.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.