BRAZIL'S STATEMENT – MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MCTI) UNDER ITEM 5 OF THE AGENDA - GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS JUNE 2024

ON BEHALF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OF BRAZIL, MS LUCIANA SANTOS

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

Good morning/afternoon.

On behalf of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil, I cordially greet all the presents. It is an honour to address such a distinguished audience to underpin the commitment of the Ministry to draw space science, technology, and innovation as pillars of the Brazilian's development, aiming at fighting regional and social inequalities as well as enhancing the country's capacity in strategic areas.

The "challenges of the future" are already deeply impacting human beings and societies around the globe. The effects of climate change manifested in floods, fires, landslides, soil erosion, rising of the sea level, beyond others, are increasing the incidence of certain types of diseases, the loss of fauna and flora, causing food insecurity and exposing the science, technology and innovation divide among nations. MCTI considers space science, technology and innovation as being of vital use in responding to these threats. Nonetheless, the recent floods in Brazil, which impacted negatively the lives of more than 2 million people, have unfolded the significant challenges for adapting life on the planet to guarantee a better present and safeguard its future.

More than ever, space technologies such as Earth observation satellites play a key role in aiding the decision making on Earth. In this regard, MCTI considers paramount to highlight the task force composed by different Brazilian institutions to process and generate satellite images in order to have a better understanding of the extension of the damage caused by the floods in Brazil. Following these lines, MCTI signed recently a letter of understanding with China to jointly build, the first geostationary meteorological satellite developed by the country. The satellite CBERS-5, to be located over the Brazilian territory, represents a milestone for the Brazilian Space Programme and will provide crucial data for weather forecasting and monitoring extreme weather events, adding an important tool to the Brazilian infrastructure for responding to these threats.

As well as working on improving its short-term measures, Brazil is seeking to fostering national initiatives which promote the use of science and scientific evidence in policymaking, such as the platform "AdaptaBrasil MCTI". Nevertheless, the transboundary characteristics of the challenges that climate change impose, creates the need to combine national and international efforts, transforming international cooperation in a vital component of the current era. In this sense, MCTI emphasises the importance of initiatives such as "The International Charter Space and Major Disasters" as international cooperation frameworks for promoting a more inclusive and accessible use of available space data, technologies and applications to the benefit of all. Adding to natural disasters and climate change risks, environmental crises are likewise threats to the sustainability of the planet and to the well-being of its inhabitants. In this context, MCTI

points out the ongoing development of the remote sensing satellites Amazonia-1B and CBERS-6 as a crucial step for monitoring and controlling deforestation, in addition to contributing to border and costal surveillance and water studies.

MCTI underlines the importance of science and technology in creating regionally and worldwide bonds and acknowledges international partnerships as a valuable instrument for the development of space missions. Against this background, MCTI spotlights the participation of Amazonia-1B in the Missions NASA AQUÆ and SABIA-Mar, the cooperation under the BRICS satellite constellation, the studies for the development of two scientific lunar exploration nanosatellite missions under the Artemis Programme, the efforts to create a Latin America Centre for Space Weather, and the first Open Universe Initiative capacity building event, to be carried out in December, in hybrid mode, by UNOOSA and Brazil.

In a global scenario of inequalities that poses a persistent challenge to the promotion of public policies, both for countries and international agencies, MCTI is committed to promoting space policies, research and development, in order to foster innovative solutions that will enable the benefits of space to reach the Brazilian society as a whole, encouraging a more sustainable and inclusive development and boosting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Notwithstanding, in order to have an equitable access to the benefits of the exploration and use of outer space, it is essential to consider the long-term sustainability of space activities. The space domain is undergoing rapid transformations, not only with the emergence of new space technologies, such as those that make use of artificial intelligence, but also with the presence of a greater number as well as of a greater diversity of space actors. Within this frame of reference, MCTI emphasises the importance of nurturing and continuously updating the LTS guidelines as well as fostering international cooperation. We highlight, in this sense, the relevance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities so as to foster more sustainable space practices while maintaining outer space as a province of all humankind, including unimpeded access to space and to space technologies, particularly to Global South countries. This way, outer space can be a driver for the achievement of the SDGs on Earth, helping the understanding of the needs of the present whilst preparing for the challenges of the future.

In closing, MCTI welcomes the inclusion of the theme "Dark and Quiet Skies" on the provisional agenda of the STSC, reaffirms its support to the empowerment of women and girls in STEM fields, and congratulates the Republic of Kenya for hosting the 2024 UNOOSA's annual Space4Women Expert Meeting in November.

Thank you!