

Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt During the 67th session of COPUOS

***Short version to be delivered**

Mr. President,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to commence by recognizing and congratulating Dr. Sherif Sedky, the Chair of the Egyptian Space Agency, for assuming the chairmanship of the 67th Session of COPUOS. We are appreciative of our African brotherly and sisterly countries for entrusting you with this important task. I wish you all the best and assure you of our full support and cooperation. I take this opportunity also to affirm my country's full support and appreciation for Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session.

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the African Group, and adds the following national remarks:

Mr. President,

Egypt attaches great importance to developing a **clear strategy** to benefit from space sciences in support of various fields of development. Allow me to briefly outline **Egypt's recent efforts in this field**, led by the Egyptian Space Agency since its establishment in 2018:

First: The **launch of a series of satellites** over the past decade, the most recent of which is MISR SAT2 on December 4, 2023, and NEX SAT1 on February 3, 2024. Preparations are underway for launching additional satellites in the coming years.

Second: The conclusion of **cooperation protocols** with several space agencies, as well as universities and research entities in Egypt in order to prepare future generations capable of actively participating in the development of space technology and maximizing the benefits of space data.

Third: Enhancing regional cooperation in the field of outer space, particularly within the African continent. Egypt played a pivotal role in formulating the first “African Space Strategy: and the establishment of the "African Space Agency" in Cairo, as part of broader African efforts to realize the goals of the African Union Agenda 2063.

In this context, Egypt is currently working to **strengthen ties of cooperation with African countries** in space technology and its applications through the Egyptian Space Agency, which hosts training programs for African countries in various fields, including small satellite technology. Egypt looks forward to working with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to further strengthen African capacities in space technology and its applications.

Additionally, Egypt is working to strengthen cooperation with Arab countries in the development of space technology, chairing the Arab Group for Space Cooperation since November 2023.

Mr. President,

I would also like to express Egypt’s full appreciation and support for the esteemed committee and its continued work in achieving its objectives, and we take note of the Report of the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Procedural report of the 63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee and would like to reiterate the following points:

First: Egypt believes that any endeavour to explore and utilize outer space must adhere to the **principles and objectives of international law, United Nations treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty.** All outer space activities have to be coordinated under the auspices of the UN in order to be inclusive, universal, and consensual.

Second: Egypt emphasizes that the **main principles of relevant United Nations treaties and the peaceful uses of outer space should drive our discussions** on the “Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space” as well as the “utilization of Space Resources”. The established principle of non-appropriation of outer space must be honoured and maintained. There is also a **need to define and agree on possible emerging applications and efforts in utilization of space resources**, including the role of the stakeholders in this regard, without prejudice to the aforementioned principles, particularly for the benefit of developing spacefaring nations, though safeguarding their equal rights to share benefits of Space and its resources.

Third: The sustainable use of outer space should place a special emphasis on **capacity-building activities** to bridge the huge divide between developed and developing countries in this domain and address the growing need to secure sufficient resources to this end. We also underscore the continued **relevance of the "Space2030" Agenda** and its Implementation Plan.

Fourth: Egypt also reaffirms its stance on the importance of **restricting the use of outer space for peaceful purposes**. The security and sustainability of outer space is strongly contingent on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Fifth: Egypt notes the **increased role of non-governmental organizations in space activities** and reiterates the relevance of **Article six of the Outer Space Treaty** in this regard, particularly the responsibility of States Parties to the Treaty for national activities in outer space, and that the activities of non-governmental organizations in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.

Sixth: Egypt supports the UNOOSA flagship “**Space for Women**” program, and we stress the **need to adhere to the vision of the UN Space for Women program and avoid possible controversial and non-consensual terms that contravene** the specific nature and vision of the program.

Seventh: Egypt supports efforts to allow for more **synergies and coordination on outer space** activities among space faring nations and the wider membership of COPUOS, **including on lunar activities**. These endeavours conform with the UN treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty, and consolidates safe and sustainable use of outer space.

In conclusion, Egypt looks forward to this session's discussions to contribute to enhancing dialogue and international cooperation, and improve the peaceful uses of outer space in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.