

## **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Sixty-seventh session

Vienna, 19–28 June 2024

### **Item 5: General exchange of views**

#### **Ambassador Debora Lepre**

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, including the strong condemnation of the Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and of the DPRK's repeated launches using ballistic missile technology. Indeed, while we celebrate and promote the Peaceful Use of Outer Space, based on International Law and the UN Charter, we cannot avoid calling for the full respect of these key principles also on Earth: in Ukraine, in Korea, and in all the conflicts that unfortunately unfold in our world.

Allow us now to add few remarks in our national capacity.

Mister Chairman,

Italy, through its space scientific and industrial community, plays a leading role in the field of space exploration and governance. It conducts its activities with a deep awareness of the importance and necessity of cooperating internationally and for the benefit of all humankind. I share what Director Holla-Maini said yesterday in her introductory statement. My Country will keep on supporting UNOOSA's mandate and its key role as "space custodian for SDGs".

Let me provide two quick snapshots of our approach:

- 1) The G7 Leaders' Communiqué, adopted last week at the G7 Summit in Italy, which highlights the International Guidelines adopted at the COPUOS and the national efforts to develop further solutions for space debris mitigation and remediation, and the development of space sustainability standards and regulations. These are indeed key challenges for the future of space activities.

- 2) The first Italian-African Meeting of Heads of the Space Agencies, which Italy is organizing in July, to launch a concrete but ambitious program to cooperate with the African nations on three key pillars of our space activities: education and training, space applications and services for a sustainable future, and international partnerships.

I am now pleased to introduce Italian Space Agency President, Professor Teodoro Valente, to deliver our national statement.

### **Professor Teodoro Valente**

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honor for me to participate in this distinguished Assembly for the first time. At this moment, when the international community is afflicted by conflicts and tensions of different natures, this UN-Assembly acquires significant value, and our responsibility is great in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

First, I would like to thank the Chairman of this Committee, Mr. Mohamed Sedki, for his leadership and personal commitment in chairing this session. I would also like to thank the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Ms. Aarti Holla Maini, and her staff for their excellent work in preparing for this 67th COPUOS session.

Mister Chairman,

Italy confirms its commitment to *the Guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS)*, approved by consensus by this Committee, to ensure that space remains a safe and accessible domain for future generations. This includes ways to promote international, regional, and interregional cooperation. It is imperative that all nations work together to achieve these goals, leveraging the unique capabilities and perspectives of each country.

In addition to the G7 activities, mentioned by our Ambassador, **G20** is also involved in space issues, with the dedicated *Space Economy Leaders meeting* attended by

representatives of space agencies, with which the Italian Space Agency has always collaborated since its establishment.

Last year, ISRO successfully organized the meeting in Bangalore, and some outcomes are still in progress, such as the realization of a G20 satellite mission for Environment and Climate Observation. This year, Brazil is working to welcome the 5th edition of the meeting in *Foz do Iguaçu* on September 11-13, 2024. I wish them all the best.

Outer space is a common resource, and it must remain free for exploration and use by all States without any discrimination, based on equality and in accordance with international law. We firmly promote the preservation of a safe, secure, and sustainable space environment for the peaceful use of outer space. The upcoming **UN Summit of the Future** in New York on September 22-23 will provide, we are sure, a great opportunity to strengthen the role of COPUOS. Italy encourages the work in progress and the efforts to soon define a draft of the Pact for the Future.

Mister Chairman,

**Italy has a complete space ecosystem** with players and capabilities. Public institutions and private actors work together to ensure accessible use of space for all citizens and communities. Italy is present in all space domains: earth observation, space science and exploration, telecommunications, navigation, surveillance, space technology, legal frameworks, and space economy. Activities and programs are developed in Europe within the ESA and EU frameworks, but many projects are also developed in bilateral cooperation outside Europe. Each activity is based on principles of knowledge, utility, development, and cooperation.

In the upcoming hours and days, the Italian delegation will have the opportunity to present a selection of our most innovative and impactful space projects, showcasing Italy's commitment to advancing space exploration and technology. Today, here, I would like to confirm our commitment to promoting responsible behavior in space.

Mister Chairman,

**The Artemis Accords** represent a significant step forward for responsible space exploration. Their principles highlight the importance of transparency, interoperability, and the peaceful use of outer space. Italy is actively engaged as a “Space Ambassador” in promoting these principles through its bilateral and multilateral relations.

In fact, the Italian Space Agency has been working in different regions of the world for years, particularly with emerging and developing countries.

The Italian Space Agency, in collaboration with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), launched the **International Space Forum initiative** at a regional level in 2016 to promote the use of space technology and the involvement of new countries in space activities, facilitating and stimulating regional cooperation.

The Forum was organized in Nairobi (Kenya) for African countries in 2017, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) for Latin American countries in 2018, in Reggio Calabria (Italy) for Mediterranean countries in 2019, and in Panama City for Central American and Caribbean countries in 2023. This year, on July 2nd, 2024, ASI, IAF, and the National Space Science Agency (NSSA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain will host the VI edition of the International Space Forum in Manama for the Gulf countries and other invited Arab countries.

In addition, within the framework of **ASEAN-Italy** collaboration, the Italian Space Agency and the ASEAN Secretariat are jointly implementing a Cooperation Initiative on Space and Smart Technologies. For the 2024 edition, ASI is leading the project together with the Singapore Office for Space Technology & Industry (OSTIn).

Mister Chairman,

Let me highlight, finally, that this October, Italy will host **the 75th edition of the International Astronautical Congress 2024 in Milan**. This event is organized by the International Astronautical Federation in collaboration with the Local partners, including AIDAA, ASI, and Leonardo Company. This year, the Congress has an important title: "Responsible Space for Sustainability," a clear challenge to our collective efforts for the future of space. It is my pleasure to invite all of you, your delegations, and your leaders to the 75th IAC 2024 in Milan, where we can share experiences, visions, and best practices.

Later, during the lunch break, the Heads of Delegation are welcome to attend a side event organized by the Italian Permanent Mission to the UN in Vienna and sponsored by the Italian Space Agency in collaboration with the IAF.

Thank you, Mister Chairman, for your kind attention.