



## **KENYA STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 5 DURING THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) DELIVERED BY MERCY KAMAU; DIRECTOR KENYA SPACE AGENCY**

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**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of Kenya, please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt on your election as the Chair of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support. Kenya also thanks your predecessor, Mr Omram Sharaf of the United Arab Emirates for his outstanding leadership and dedication to a successful conclusion of the previous session.

We also thank the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat, for their commitment and tireless efforts in organizing this and other similar meetings in the past.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement by the G77 and China as well as the African Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. Kenya recognizes and appreciates the international forums provided by UNOOSA through COPUOS and its Subcommittees, for the role they play in promoting international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space. We fully support the activities of the Committee.

2. My delegation appreciates the commendable achievements of other member states since the last session of the Committee Meeting in June 2023, and we would like to also inform this gathering of some of our significant accomplishments in the period.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. During the 66<sup>th</sup> session of COPUOS, we reported on the Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to Kenya jointly organized by UNOOSA and the Kenya Space Agency, that took place in April 2023. The TAM was very instrumental in building our capacity towards development of comprehensive national space policy and legislation. The TAM helped to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of our stakeholders on the fundamental concepts of international space law, the guiding principles, the key elements of a national space legislation and the key issues for consideration in drafting national space policy and national space legislation.

4. I would like to report that we have since made great progress in finalizing two important documents – the Kenya Space Policy 2024 which is awaiting presentation before Cabinet and the Draft Kenya Space Bill 2024, which is expected to undergo the last round of public participation and validation in August this year before submission to the Attorney General and to Parliament by the fourth quarter of 2024.

5. As part of awareness creation and elevating discussions and national conversation on the utility and benefits of space exploration, the Kenya Space Agency hosted the second edition Kenya



Space Expo and Conference 2024 from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference, themed “Space Technologies for Societal Benefits” brought together government, policy makers, professionals, academia, industry, private sector, space enthusiasts, students and the wider public to a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the value to be derived from investments in and effective exploration of space opportunities in national socioeconomic development.

**Mr. Chair**

6. Kenya continues to leverage international partnerships to build capacity and develop its capabilities in effective space exploration and exploitation. Accordingly, the Kenya Space Agency has established valuable collaborative partnerships with the Italian Space Agency, India Space Research Organization, the State Space Agency of Ukraine, the Egyptian Space Agency and the South African Space Agency, and is in the process of establishing more with other space agencies and other partners, in the region and internationally. Through these partnerships, Kenya is strengthening its earth observation data acquisition, processing, repository as well as data management and governance processes. Further, Kenya is collaborating with regional partners in developing a roadmap for a regional geostationary satellite communications solution to provide digital connectivity to the last mile in the eastern African region.

7. The increase in space activities occasioned by entry of NewSpace actors in the global space sector also provide new opportunities for growth and innovation in the areas of satellite design, construction, launch and operation. Kenya is keen to enhance its space systems engineering capacity and also has ambitions of venturing into the launch segment through mutually beneficial partnership with interested partners.

8. As I conclude, I wish to state that Kenya is glad to be the next host of the 5th edition of the Space4Women Expert Meeting that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 under the auspices of UNOOSA’s Space4Women initiative. The international event, which is being hosted for the first time in Africa, is expected to create more awareness among women in the global south, and particularly in Africa, of the opportunities that exist through participation in STEM and space activities. Considering women constitute the mainstay of social and economic activity in the continent, we believe the event will have a transformative impact in greater women participation translating to impactful realization of the UN SDGs and AU Agenda 2063.

**Mr. Chairman**

9. Finally, the Kenya delegation would like to reiterate assurance to the Committee of its continued cooperation and support in furthering the cause of peaceful uses of outer space.

10. Thank you, Mr Chair and distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.