



## **Agenda Item 5**

### **General Exchange of Views**

**Delivered by**

**Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space.**

**Vienna, 19 – 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

**Mr. Chair and Distinguish Delegates,**

1. Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of G77 and China and on behalf of the Africa Group. In our national capacity, we have the following comments to add.
2. My delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky of Egypt, on your election as the Chair of the 67th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and assure you of our continuous support and cooperation as you preside over this Session.
3. My delegation takes the opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. Nigeria acknowledges the critical role of the Committee and its two (2) subcommittees play in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable economic development and social justice. In this regard, the outer space and other celestial bodies must continue to be safeguarded as the common heritage of humankind, explored and utilized for peaceful puposes and for the interest of all member states, irrespective of their social, ecomonic or scientific development.
5. Nigeria's Venture into Space is not a mere adventure, but a pursuit of new strategies and solutions to numerous problems facing our nation. We are determined to utilised space technology to improve the quality of life of our citizens. Such includes better management of our resources and environment as well as our social lives. In this connection, my delegation is pleased to inform you that Nigeria launched the GEO-NIGERIA in May, 2023. This initiative enhances Nigeria's participation in, and contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) geared towards attaining sustainable development goals.

**Mr. Chair,**

6. Nigeria, through the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for English speaking African countries (ARCSSTE-E),

is committed to complement the efforts of the United Nations to develop indigenous capacity and maximize the benefits of space technology in the developing countries. My delegation is pleased to inform that in the past 24 years of the establishment of the Centre, a total of 601 postgraduate students from 19 English Speaking countries in Africa has been trained. In addition, the Center organized the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Colloquium on Equatorial and Low-Latitude Ionosphere in September 2023 in Nigeria, where the forum provided a platform for global scientists, policy makers, students and designers of space-dependent technologies.

7. It is important to reiterate our commitment to the continuous hosting of the West and Central African Regional Support Offices (RSO) for the implementation of the UN-SPIDER programme. The Office has continued to perform its duties in accordance with the stipulated mandates on space technologies for disaster risk management, emergency response and recovery efforts within the Regions.
8. In recognition of the strategic and central economic role of space science, technology and innovation plays in global economy, Nigeria hosted the maiden edition of Africa Space Economy Conference in October, 2023 under the theme: “Exploring Space Economy for Africa’s Growth”. Where, Space economy as an emerging sub-sector of global space ecosystem captured the economic benefits of a dynamic space sector and the role space can play in the socio-economic development of human society.

**Mr. Chair,**

9. The nature of outer space activities further underscores the need for capacity building, training and education towards increasing knowledge in several critical areas including the legal framework within which space activities are being carried out. We reiterate our continuous support to the Director of Outer Space in her leadership style of inclusive, transparent and professionalism, while paying attention to the needs of developing countries.
10. We underscore the important role of UNCOPUOS as the main UN organ responsible for the regulation of outer space affairs and activities. In the light of this, I will like to inform you that Nigeria is set to send her 1<sup>st</sup> citizen to outer space through our collaboration with US-based Space Exploration and

Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin. We will like to reiterate our total support and commitment to the full democratization of space exploration.

11. In conclusion, I will like to inform you that I am the 4<sup>th</sup> substantive Director General and Chief Executive of NASRDA, newly appointed by Mr. President. Under my leadership, Nigeria will uphold and implement all international treaties and obligations responsibly.

**Thank you.**