

**Statement of the Republic of Türkiye at the 67th Session of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

(19-28 June 2024)

Madam Director,
Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, we would like to extend our gratitude to H.E. Omran Sharaf from UAE for his successful chairmanship and congratulate Mr. Sedky from Egypt and Mr. Akram from Morocco, on their elections as new Chairs for 2024-2025 as well as the new members of the Bureau, and express our appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and her dedicated team, for the excellent preparation of this Session.

Chair,

Strengthening space governance to maintain a safe and sustainable outer space for the benefit of present and future generations is our common goal.

Türkiye, as one of the few countries which ratified all the five UN treaties on outer space, including the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, believes that these five UN treaties constitute the cornerstone of international law on outer space.

In this context, we would like to reiterate the importance of the states' commitment to the basic principles stipulated in these treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty. We call upon those who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify all the five UN treaties, and invite all countries to implement them in full, in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space for all.

Chair,

We believe that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees, as the main platforms for the discussions on peaceful use of outer space and development of international law in this field, play a pivotal role in regulating and managing outer space activities.

Regarding discussions on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, we are of the view that the authorized body is the COPUOS that takes its decisions by consensus.

We also believe that the technical mandate of these platforms need to be strictly preserved, also with respect to the discussions on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. Maritime law and airspace law have different

dynamics and are regulated by different regimes and instruments which are not on “outer space”, and thus are out of the scope and mandate of COPUOS. Therefore they should be precluded.

Chair,

Under the leadership of the Turkish Space Agency, Türkiye has been expanding its space activities in recent years, achieving significant milestones as part of its National Space Program:

As a landmark achievement in our Astronaut and Science Mission Program, the first Turkish Astronaut Alper GEZERA VCI has conducted 13 important scientific experiments in 14 days at the International Space Station, last February.

Our second astronaut, Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER has also made recently a suborbital flight and conducted various experiments, which we believe, will inspire young generations and increase awareness on the importance of outer space activities in Türkiye.

In addition to our CubeSat and remote-sensing satellites, our first communication satellite developed by Turkish institutions, TURKSAT 6A, is scheduled for launch in July 2024.

Also under the Regional Navigation and Timing Satellite System Program, a project is ongoing to develop a rubidium-based atomic clock and validate it on a CubeSat mission.

Under our Moon Research Program, a space vehicle to orbit the Moon and make a hard landing on the Lunar surface is also being developed.

Chair,

Türkiye, which believes that the problems surrounding space activities can only be solved jointly, in a cooperative manner, values international cooperation also in the space domain.

We continue joint activities with international organizations, including United Nations bodies, Organization of Turkic States, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and others.

Türkiye was recognized as a new member of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) during its annual meeting in October 2023.

Türkiye also will be glad to host the IAC 2026, which will take place in Antalya.

In order to foster interest in aerospace among young generations, Türkiye has been also organizing the TEKNOFEST Aerospace Festival since 2018. TEKNOFEST 2024 will be held in Adana, in October, welcoming international participation once again.

Moreover, Türkiye is also hosting international scientific working group meetings once in every 6 months regarding possible cooperation on Lunar exploration.

Chair,

Regarding the forthcoming Summit of the Future, Türkiye follows the ongoing efforts in New York closely and hopes that the Summit will play a crucial role in elevating outer space issues on the international agenda and improving space governance. Furthermore, Türkiye believes that the Pact for the Future should promote the peaceful, safe, secure, and sustainable use of outer space, supporting the implementation of the Space2030 Agenda.

Chair,

Türkiye remains committed to actively promoting the preservation of a safe, secure, and sustainable space environment and the peaceful use of outer space, ensuring access to outer space for future generations.

I thank you, Chair.
