**Statement of Saudi Arabia at the 67th Session of UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Agenda Item 6: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

We stand at a pivotal moment in space exploration. The increasing accessibility and utilization of space offers tremendous potential for scientific discovery, technological advancement, and global progress. However, this very growth presents a critical challenge, comprised in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the space environment.

Collisions with debris can cripple operational satellites, hindering critical applications, especially those utilizing near Earth orbit. To maintain the sustainability of space applications, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Saudi Space Agency, urges all nations to uphold the principles of the Outer Space Treaty. This extends to actively pursuing international cooperation to ensure the sustainability of peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, it is imperative that we collectively commit to the prevention of the proliferation of space debris and prioritize effective debris mitigation strategies.

In an active measure towards recognizing this ever-increasing threat and its repercussions on the safety of outer space, last February, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Space Debris Conference, the first of its kind in the region. Riyadh played host to this world-class forum where upwards of two hundred key decision-makers and leading experts from more than 50 countries united to confront the issue of space debris by formulating effective solutions. Through open dialogue on impactful methods and promising developments, the conference served as a platform to create a safer space environment and strengthen international ties in the spacefaring community.

Motivated by the productive outcomes of the conference, we stand to affirm our unwavering commitment to the sustainable use of outer space. We notice this commitment materializing day after another, as we continue developing crucial space situational awareness and debris mitigation capabilities and investing in our human capital. By doing so, we are cultivating a talented body of professionals and innovators dedicated for our Space Objects Tracking Center at the Saudi Space Agency. This center now plays an instrumental role in tracking spaceborne objects, especially those, which play an integral role in the sustainable use of outer space. We are investing in our human capital. By doing so, we are cultivating a talented body of professionals and innovators dedicated to the sustainable use of outer space. We are investing in our human capital.

*Mr. Chair,*

In an active measure towards recognizing this ever-increasing threat and its repercussions on the safety of outer space, last February, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Space Debris Conference, the first of its kind in the region. Riyadh played host to this world-class forum where upwards of two hundred key decision-makers and leading experts from more than 50 countries united to confront the issue of space debris by formulating effective solutions. Through open dialogue on impactful methods and promising developments, the conference served as a platform to create a safer space environment and strengthen international ties in the spacefaring community.

**Mr. Chair,**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia actively pursues international cooperation to ensure the sustainability of peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, it is imperative that we collectively commit to the prevention of the proliferation of space debris and prioritize effective debris mitigation strategies.

We are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the space environment. Collisions with debris can cripple operational satellites, hindering critical applications, especially those utilizing near Earth orbit. To maintain the sustainability of space applications, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia urges all nations to uphold the principles of the Outer Space Treaty. This extends to actively pursuing international cooperation to ensure the sustainability of peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, it is imperative that we collectively commit to the prevention of the proliferation of space debris and prioritize effective debris mitigation strategies.

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Motivated by the productive outcomes of the conference, we stand to affirm our unwavering commitment to the sustainable use of outer space. We notice this commitment materializing day after another, as we continue developing crucial space situational awareness and debris mitigation capabilities and investing in our human capital. By doing so, we are cultivating a talented body of professionals and innovators dedicated to the sustainable use of outer space. We are investing in our human capital.
We continue to **actively engage** with our partners to further solidify our dedication and advocate for the development of **robust frameworks** that will help reduce the amount of space debris in orbit and ensure the **long-term viability** of the space environment for all nations.

**It is therefore that our delegation calls for the following actions:**

1. **Strengthening international cooperation:** We urge all nations to actively participate in developing and implementing the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities adopted by UNCOPUOS in 2019. Information sharing and collaborative research are essential for tackling this global issue.

2. **Promoting responsible practices:** Launching nations should adopt stricter debris mitigation measures during spacecraft design, launch, and operation. This includes minimizing fragmentation risks during deployment and actively pursuing debris removal technologies.

3. **Investing in innovative technological solutions:** We encourage continued research and development of debris removal technologies such as active debris removal missions and non-destructive in-situ deorbiting techniques. Public-private partnerships can play a vital role in accelerating these advancements.

Sustainability goes beyond debris mitigation. A robust regulatory framework that promotes responsible resource utilization while safeguarding the space environment is essential. Maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes demands a collective effort. We must act with urgency, determination, and foresight, fostering international cooperation, promoting responsible practices, developing sound regulatory frameworks, and investing in advanced solutions to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for space exploration & utilization.

**Thank you.**

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**نبذة عامة:** يعتبر الأعمال المشتركة من خلال هيئة الأمم المتحدة لضمان البيئة الفضائية وتقديم التشريعات والصيغة التنظيمية ضرورية لإيجاد حلول لمشكلة إزالة الأغراض الفضائية. هذه الأعمال يجب أن تكون جزءًا من جهودنا لضمان نتيجة مستدامة للأنشطة الفضائية في المستقبل.

**الآليات:**

1. **تعزيز التعاون الدولي:** نهيب جميع الدول المشاركين في الفعاليات العالمية بمتابعة أطر التعاون الدولي والوسائل التوجيهية للمساهمة في خلق الأطر التنظيمية اللازمة لضمان استخدام الفضاء الخارجي في الأغراض السلمية. استثمار العمل الجماعي على تحقيق توازن بين الاستخدام والمحافظة على البيئة الفضائية.

2. **تشجيع الممارسات المسؤولية:** ندعو إلى اتخاذ قرارات أكثر صرامة في إزالة الأغراض الفضائية، وتشجيع الدول على استخدام تكنولوجيات لإزالة الأغراض الفضائية من المدار. استثمار الأدوات الحالية لتحقيق إزالة الأغراض الفضائية بشكل فعال.

3. **الاستثمار في الحلول التكنولوجية المبتكرة:** تشجيع مواصلة البحث والتطوير في مجال تقنيات إزالة الأغراض الفضائية، مثل: استخدام الديوربرت التي تزيد من أعداد كتل الصُناعات الفضائية. استثمار التكنولوجيا الحديثة لتحقيق إزالة الأغراض الفضائية من المدار، وتشجيع التعاون الدولي معاً لتحقيق هذا الهدف.

شكراً لكم!