



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
19-28 June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania for her exemplary chairpersonship of the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and would like to comment on some of the issues put forth during the session that we consider of utmost relevance for developing countries.
2. With regard to the technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, the Group would like to reiterate the fact that the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation, needs to be used in a way that ensures countries have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.
3. The issue of accumulation of space debris continues to be a cause for concern in space. The Group therefore is of the view that the potential hazards posed by the collision of debris with space objects and the consequences of the harmful contamination of outer space cannot be underestimated. It is also important that new space actors are not overburdened due to the consequences of historical activities of established space actors. The Group would also like to emphasize the challenges caused by placement of mega constellations in low Earth orbit, including those related to collision risks and sustainable use of orbit and frequencies, and believes addressing these challenges should be a priority in the work of COPUOS.
4. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and encourages advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application take actions to ensure their full implementation. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

Mr. Chair,

5. Space science and technology, and their applications are essential in effectively addressing current and future challenges to social and economic development and sustainability, such as natural disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. The Group notes in this regard that space activities are also crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the “Space2030” Agenda, in particular as part of efforts to support sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life and manage the global environment. It is therefore important to ensure that the Office is equipped with the necessary resources, including sufficient funding, to assist a greater number of countries in having access to the benefits of space science and technology and its applications in line with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable UN Treaties on Outer Space, as well as the “Space2030” Agenda.

6. The Group would like to highlight the importance of science and technology dissemination in bridging the space divide. The Group therefore calls upon the Committee and UNOOSA for greater support to the training programs of the regional centers affiliated to the United Nations, and to conduct wider exchange and cooperation among different regional centers, including through alliance of regional centers, with the aim of enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation to empower the development of technology among nations. The Group also calls upon UNOOSA and Member States to make available more opportunities for academic networking, long-term fellowships and collaboration with national and regional institutions in the field of outer space especially in developing Countries.

7. The Group welcomes the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of the voluntary Guidelines for the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) during the 62nd session of COPUOS. In this regard, it is important to bear in mind that this achievement was the outcome of a multi-dimensional compromise and therefore has a delicate balance. This delicate balance should be preserved in implementing the workplan regarding this subject and should also take into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries. The Group and its Member States remain committed to contribute constructively to the meetings of the LTS Working Group and its work.

8. The Group further encourages efforts for contributing towards space applications for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues, bearing in mind the resolution “Space and Global Health” adopted by the UN General Assembly in its 77th session.

9. The Group, once again, welcomes the consensus on the scope, duration and the title of the agenda item related to Dark and Quiet Skies and Large Constellations, with a view to recommending the item to this Session of the Committee, for inclusion on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

10. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group reiterates the role of COPUOS as the only mechanism to address peaceful uses of outer space. The Group of 77 and China will continue its engagement in the spirit of cooperation and consensus and hopes that we will be able to address these issues to come up with solutions that will contribute to global prosperity and lasting peace through the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.