CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Statement by Slovenia,
68th Session of the United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
Agenda Item 9: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of the current status
(Vienna, June - July 2025)
Statement by: Maruška Strah, Slovenian Space Office

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Slovenia is honoured to take the floor as an emerging space country, fully committed to the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all humankind.
We are deeply aware of the many spin-off benefits that space technologies bring to life on Earth. One of the priorities of the Slovenian Space Office is to ensure that these benefits are felt in our everyday lives—across sectors, across communities.
For us, the space sector is not only about innovation and business opportunities. It is also about driving the green and digital transitions, supporting climate resilience, and improving quality of life. Satellite data supports agriculture, monitors forests, predicts floods and fires, and enables better spatial planning, energy management, transport, and security. These applications are already making a real difference on the ground.

We are particularly proud of our contributions to health research. In Planica, Slovenia hosts ESA's Short-Arm Human Centrifuge, where the Jožef Stefan Institute leads bedrest studies that simulate the effects of microgravity on the human body. This research supports astronaut health, but also has great potential to improve healthcare on Earth—offering insights into conditions like osteoporosis, muscle loss, and cardiovascular issues that come with aging.

The centrifuge generates artificial gravity by spinning participants at 35 revolutions per minute—more than doubling their body weight at the torso, and quadrupling it at the feet. This helps researchers understand how to counteract the negative effects of weightlessness, through controlled exercise and environmental conditions.

Slovenian innovation extends to the private sector as well. A miniature camera developed for a satellite is now used in a smart washing machine to sort laundry by colour and fabric. Our researchers have even developed garments to help prevent thrombosis—an idea sparked by challenges in space medicine.

Mr. Chair, Slovenia's growing space ecosystem reflects our strong belief in international cooperation, scientific excellence, and shared progress. We will continue working to ensure space technologies serve humanity—both in orbit and on Earth.

Thank you.