



## **Statement of APSCO Delegation**

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Sixty-eighth session**

**Vienna, 25 June–2 July 2025**

**M-Building, M-Plenary room**

**Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria**

### **Agenda Item 14. Space exploration and innovation**

**Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item No. 15. Space exploration and innovation.

**Mr. Chair,**

Deep space exploration, lunar and mars exploration are listed as the key areas of cooperation in the new Development Plan on Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030), as approved by the 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of APSCO in 2020. In line with the Development Plan, APSCO shall carry out basic research and advanced research on development of science and technical means for deep space exploration, and develop experimental study on it.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

- APSCO has initiated various cooperation activities in space exploration welcome international partners to work with APSCO. The “Roadmap of Cooperation on International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) Program has been developed and a dedicated Working Group has been established for Joint Study on International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). More than 50 experts and scholars from APSCO Member States have joined the team. So far 3 workshops, 3 working group meetings have been organized.
- In the year 2022, APSCO opened opportunity for its Member States to send a payload/cubesat aboard on Chang'e-6 lunar mission of China. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, the Chang'e-6 Mission was launched and the Pakistan’s cubesat, ICUBE-Q was launched as a

payload, which marked the first intuitive of Member State Pakistan in Lunar Exploration.

- Also, APSCO and China National Space Administration (CNSA) have signed the Cooperation MOU in International Lunar Research Station in 2024.

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,**

APSCO opened more opportunities for its members to send more payloads on upcoming Chang'e-8 mission of China, and I am very is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the project selection process for the groundbreaking Chang'e-8 lunar mission, led by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). Out of the total of 10 outstanding projects, 4 projects from APSCO Member States have been selected, which are:

- Pakistan and the International Society for Terrain-Vehicle Systems (ISTVS): Development of an advanced lunar rover for surface exploration;
- Türkiye: An innovative exploration rover designed for extended lunar operations;
- Thailand: A neutron analyzer for detailed lunar regolith composition analysis, and
- Iran: A lunar environmental and resource assessment monitor to support sustainable

This achievement underscores APSCO's unwavering commitment to advancing space science, fostering technological synergy, and promoting sustainable socio-economic development across its member nations.

APSCO also calls upon its Member States to continue actively participating in its programs, paving the way for a future where space exploration benefits all humanity.

I thank you all for your attention.

**Jiang Hui (Ms.)**

Secretary-General

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)