



## **AGENDA 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS: KENYA**

### **STATEMENT BY ANDREW NYAWADE, KENYA SPACE AGENCY, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - TO 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2025**

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#### **Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

1. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your effective chairmanship of the sixty-eighth session of COPUOS and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to appreciate the role of Mr. Sherif Mohamed Sedky in chairing the sixty-seventh session. This is an affirmation of Africa's commitment to advancing the global space agenda.
2. I also take this opportunity to extend Kenya's appreciation to the efforts and work that has been undertaken by the Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting and supporting the work of this Committee amidst budget constraints. We would also like to welcome the new members to the Committee.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

3. Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the G77& China and the Africa Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.
4. As an emerging spacefaring nation, Kenya greatly appreciates the vital role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries, particularly through the "Access to Space for All" joint initiatives. Kenyan institutions have directly benefited from these efforts, participating in the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track, Satellite Development Track, and Space Exploration Track initiatives. Kenya has also benefited through a Technical Advisory Mission under the Space Law for New Space Actors project to draft its national space law and revise its space policy to be in line with the international normative frameworks applicable to outer space activities. These collaborative programmes have been instrumental in enhancing our national capabilities in space systems engineering, satellite operations, and space science, as well as space law and policy.



5. We therefore look forward to enhancing our collaboration with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and call for enhanced funding and support to empower UNOOSA to expand its programmes to a broader community and facilitate even greater technological and scientific advancements in developing countries. This is because we believe long term sustainability of outer space is better assured when no one is left behind.

**Mr. Chairman**

6. In Africa, regional cooperation in space activities is gaining significant momentum, providing the much-needed resources to implement innovative projects and develop robust space capabilities across the continent. The inauguration of the African Space Agency in April marked an important milestone for regional and international cooperation and is a testament of the desire to collaborate in developing space capabilities in Africa. Indeed, with shared resources, we can achieve greater socioeconomic development for posterity.
7. As we undertake the midterm review of Space2030 Agenda and move towards UNISPACE IV, the role of UN-affiliated Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education in capacity building, promoting space science and technology for development and fostering collaboration should be reinforced by enhancing the programmes and resources to address the needs of developing countries.

**Mr. Chairman**

8. Kenya strongly supports the enhanced participation of women in space science, technology, and policy. In this regard, we appreciate the opportunity to have hosted the 5th edition of the Space4Women Expert Meeting, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27th to 29th November 2024 under the auspices of UNOOSA's Space4Women initiative. This landmark event, hosted in Africa for the first time, served as a platform to raise awareness among women—particularly those in the Global South on the opportunities available in STEM as well as space-related fields, and encourage their participation in developing innovative solutions to address socioeconomic challenges using space technologies and space-enabled technologies. It also provided a foundation for empowering women in space science, research, and leadership roles worldwide.



**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates**

9. In ensuring that outer space remains safe and usable for all countries and future generations, Kenya notes with deep concern the exponential increase in space debris, which is becoming an ever more serious threat to human safety and global security. The incident in December last year, in which a half-ton separation ring from the upper stage of a rocket fell into Kenya, underscores the urgent need for enhanced international collaboration on space debris mitigation and space situational awareness, and the need for actors responsible for creating the debris to play an active role in clearing and cleaning activities. This also calls for deliberate infrastructure and capacity development for space surveillance and tracking, especially in Africa. Kenya is therefore interested in collaborating in initiatives such as the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Framework.
10. As I conclude, I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socioeconomic development. We support the view that equitable benefit-sharing and inclusive international cooperation are foundational to the governance of outer space activities.

**I thank you.**