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**Statement Item 8: Space and Sustainable Development**

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Italy firmly believes that space is a key enabler for sustainable development and that sustainability must guide all space activities — on Earth, in orbit, and beyond. Our national strategy reflects a comprehensive approach built around three interconnected dimensions: sustainability *from* space, *in* space, and *for* space.

Italy uses space-based assets to support the Sustainable Development Goals by providing data essential for climate monitoring, disaster response, resource management, and environmental protection. Our national hyperspectral constellation **PRISMA** delivers advanced observations for assessing land use, water quality, pollution, and natural risks.

A major initiative currently underway is **IRIDE**, a next-generation Earth observation constellation financed by the Italian government and implemented with the support of ESA. IRIDE will offer eight thematic services — including air quality monitoring, water and forest management, precision agriculture, and critical infrastructure surveillance — supporting public authorities, researchers, and businesses in making informed, sustainable decisions. It will be one of the most ambitious European systems for civil Earth observation, fully aligned with the goals of environmental resilience and digital transition.

At the same time, Italy is actively engaged in promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space. We support multilateral dialogue on responsible behaviours and space traffic management, and contribute to initiatives within the IADC and other fora to protect the orbital environment. Italy also invests in advanced technologies for **debris mitigation and active removal**, and supports industrial participation in missions such as **ClearSpace-1**.

Our country contributes to sustainable lunar exploration as part of the **Artemis programme**, with developments in mobility systems, scientific payloads, and infrastructure design aimed at ensuring responsible use of lunar resources.

**Italy emphasizes the importance of minimizing the environmental impact of space activities on Earth**, supporting low-emission technologies, sustainable launch systems like Vega C, and eco-responsible innovation. Sustainability is a core element of Italy's industrial policy and funding programmes.

Italy reaffirms its dedication to the **responsible, inclusive, and sustainable use of space**, and stands ready to cooperate with all Member States to ensure that space remains a **common good serving humanity's sustainable future**.

Thank you.