Agenda Item 8: Space and Sustainable Development

Republic of Korea National Statement

Sixty-eighth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

June 27, 2025

Thank you, Chair.

At the 2024 Summit of the Future, the "Pact for the Future" was adopted and we believe this landmark agreement marks a pivotal step forward in advancing space governance, reinforcing its interlinkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and fostering inclusive international cooperation through broader stakeholder engagement.

At the national level, the Republic of Korea has developed the 4th Basic Plan for Sustainable Development, reaffirming our commitment to achieving the SDGs by 2030. In this context, earth observation plays a critical role in identifying effective solutions to meet SDG targets. The value of earth observation and geospatial data in policy formulation is increasingly acknowledged, as they provide a scientific basis for assessing our current trajectory and making informed decisions for the future.

Korea’s Cheollian 2B geostationary environmental satellite provides near real-time air quality data including aerosols, ozone, nitrogen dioxide,

sulfur dioxide, and UV index. This data is instrumental in tracing pollution pathways and forecasting high concentration of fine dust, ultimately contributing to urban air quality management and the protection of public health, thus advancing SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

In support of SDG 13 (Climate Action), the Republic of Korea actively engages in international disaster response efforts through the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters. Leveraging both multipurpose satellites and ground-based satellite imagery, we have provided critical data for global disaster response efforts − ranging from earthquakes in Japan and floods in the Philippines to volcanic eruptions in Indonesia. In 2024 alone, the Republic of Korea contributed 877 satellite images through the Charter, reflecting our shared commitment to climate resilience and humanitarian assistance.

With respect to SDG 14 (Life Below Water), the Cheollian 2B satellite continues to monitor marine pollution, red tides, and suspended particles. This ocean observation data empowers marine and fisheries authorities to take timely and science-based actions to preserve marine ecosystems and promote sustainable ocean governance.

Turning to SDG 15 (Life on Land), Korea's next-generation medium-sized satellite (KMSAT-4), scheduled for launch in 2026, will further enhance our capacity to monitor terrestrial ecosystems. This satellite will support the detection and management of forest fires, changes in forest ecosystems, and the condition of agricultural land and crops. It will provide

vital data for strengthening national policies on climate adaptation and sustainable land management.

Other than SDGs related to earth observation, the Republic of Korea is also actively supporting SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through close collaboration with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) under the "Space for Women" project. This program promotes greater participation of women in space science and technology and contributes to fostering a culture of gender equality across the global space sector.

The Republic of Korea remains committed to the peaceful and responsible use of space technology in support of sustainable development. We will continue to deepen our contributions and partnerships with the United Nations and international community to advance inclusive, resilient and sustainable space activities for the benefit of all humankind.

Thank you.