

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Statement

by

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to the United Nations
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Space (COPUOS)**

Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of Views

25 June – 2 July 2025

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to extend our sincere congratulations for your election as the Chair of this Committee meeting, as well as the members of the bureau and wish you success in discharging your tasks. I would like to associate my delegation with the statement of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting at a very critical time, when the Israeli regime, in coalition with the US, has committed blatant acts of aggression and unlawful armed attacks against Iran in grave violation of the UN Charter and several tenets of international law, resulting in the killing of hundreds of civilians and injuries of thousands of innocent people of Iran, including women, children, scientists, elites, and university lecturers.

In addition to residential areas and civilian infrastructures, these attacks targeted at tele-communications facilities and installations that were utilized for peaceful purposes. On one specific occasion, it deliberately targeted Iran's National Broadcasting Organization (IRIB) on 16 June 2025 that resulted in killing several civilian IRIB employees. The IRIB operates through space-based infrastructure strictly for peaceful purposes, delivering essential services such as public information, education, and cultural programming. These civilian functions are directly aligned with the objectives of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which seeks to preserve outer space for peaceful and beneficial uses. In accordance with international humanitarian law, civilian infrastructure of this nature must be protected and respected, particularly during armed conflict. The deliberate targeting of such facilities by the Israeli regime constitutes a serious violation of these principles and must be categorically condemned as a breach of established international norms, both in the context of humanitarian law and the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the crucial role of COPUOS in maintaining outer space as a domain of peaceful cooperation and shared benefit. This role is more critical than ever, as the rapid evolution of space technologies has both amplified opportunities and exacerbated disparities in global space access.

The increasing number of objects in orbit is a testament to technological growth, but it also reflects the dominance of a few states with concentrated capabilities. This imbalance threatens to marginalize the vast majority of nations that lack the necessary resources and infrastructure to fully participate in space activities.

We emphasize the need for strengthened international cooperation and capacity-building. These are essential not only for enabling broader participation in space activities but also for fostering global peace and development. Technology transfer and equitable access to data and space-derived benefits should be prioritized. Selective and conditional approaches

must be avoided. In this context, we support the initiative proposed by the African Group and several other member States on "Space for Development."

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly maintains that space resources are part of the common heritage of all humankind and must be governed within a transparent, inclusive, and multilateral framework. Any exploitation of such resources should be conducted in strict accordance with international space law, particularly the Outer Space Treaty, and must not lead to national appropriation, whether by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation, or any other means. Iran expresses concern over unilateral interpretations and practices that may preclude equitable access, particularly for developing countries. It is therefore essential that the exploration and utilization of space resources be guided by principles of international cooperation and equitable benefit-sharing to ensure that developing countries are not excluded from the advantages and opportunities arising from such activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The growing number of satellite mega-constellations raises significant concerns regarding orbital crowding, increased collision risks, and limited access for developing countries to Low Earth Orbit. All space activities must strictly comply with international law and be conducted with due regard for the interests of all states.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding space debris, we emphasize the importance of coordinated mitigation efforts. The space-faring nations bear a heightened responsibility in this regard. Yet, such measures must be implemented in a way that does not restrict the legitimate rights of developing countries to explore and use outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

The lack of adequate capabilities in space situational awareness (SSA) among developing countries hinders their participation in space traffic management. Limited access to real-time data, modeling tools, and collision-avoidance technologies puts their assets at risk and deepens existing inequalities. Enhancing SSA capabilities through inclusive cooperation must be prioritized.

Thank you.