

Agenda Item 11. General exchange of information and view on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee, 62nd Session, March 27, 2023.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam chair and distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure for my delegation to have the chance to speak on “Space Debris“. Due to its rapid increase, space debris has become one of the biggest obstacles to keeping the space environment safe and sustainable.

As a way to minimize the amount of space debris throughout the entire process of spacecraft operation, from development to launch, operation, and disposal, the Republic of Korea has adopted “Recommendation on the Development and Operation of Spacecraft for the Purpose of Mitigating Space Debris”, which is in compliance with the “Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines” of UNCOPUOS. Also, according to the recently established ‘4th Basic Plan for Space Development Promotion’, we are under way to strengthen our Space Situational Awareness capability and promote related space technologies, such as those involved in robotic arms for active debris removal and space environment monitoring systems, which will help us better track our satellites and limit the probability of accidental collisions in orbit.

The Republic of Korea is also taking part in the international efforts to mitigate space debris. As a responsible actor in outer space, the Republic of Korea pledged not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing last October. We also sponsored the UN General Assembly First Committee resolution which calls upon all States to do so. Our commitments to develop norms of responsible behavior in outer space can contribute to the mitigation of space debris.

Lastly, my delegation is pleased to inform you of the successful flight of HANBIT-

TLV, the suborbital test launcher, which was fired from the Alcantra Space Center in Brazil last Monday. This is Korea's first civilian-made small satellite launcher. This meaningful experience with Brazil will help Korea increase its capability to contribute more to the protection of the space environment.

We firmly believe that our efforts to reduce space debris and our active participation in the development of related international norms will help to build a safe and sustainable space environment.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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