



Statement of APSCO Delegation
at the 62nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of
the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 20-31 March 2023

Agenda Item 8. Capacity-building in Space Law

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item 8. Capacity-building in space law at the 62nd session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Madam Chair,

My delegation extends full trust and confidence in your leadership in steering this Session to a successful conclusion with positive support of the Secretariat. We also appreciate the efforts of the Acting Director of UNOOSA, Mr. Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat team for planning, preparing and successfully organizing this session.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO was established in 2008 and within 15 years of successful operation, APSCO has been able to contribute immensely in the development of various space programs and projects among its Member States. Capacity building is one of the core areas in the Development Plan of

APSCO, Item 8

Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030) and one of the main objectives in the Strategic Plan on Space Law and Policy of APSCO.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO considers capacity building as the most crucial pillar for developing responsible behavior and promotion of international space law. APSCO has been making efforts to help its Member States and region by providing them opportunities related to capacity building in space law, that varies from degree education to training and consultation.

APSCO cooperated with the top universities like Beihang University in China to set up a master program on space law and policy since 2016. This program admits students through APSCO every two years. So far, 15 students funded by China Scholarship Council (CSC) and Beihang University have been recruited under master's degree program in space law.

APSCO conducted a series of short trainings in a systematical way based on demand and needs of Member States of APSCO. The trainings were organized as back-to-back event to the biennial space law and policy workshops/conferences/forums to let member states officials have the chance to promote capacity building but also discuss with the experts in space law and policy field.

APSCO organizes two knowledge exchange platforms biennially; 'APSCO International Symposium' and 'APSCO Space Law Forum'. Since 2009, APSCO has organized nine International Symposiums/ conferences/ forums/ workshops in Member States in collaboration with international organizations like UNOOSA and ESA, renowned universities and institutes like China Institute of Space Law, Harbin Institute of Technology, McGill University and Beijing Institute of Technology respectively.

APSCO started executive development courses (under the name of Leadership Development Forum) which focuses on the development of Leaders/ CEOs/Executives in space agencies to provide them insight on critical space law and policy relates issues, contemporary dialogues in space law, new and emerging aspects in space. The first Leadership Development

APSCO, Item 8

Forum (LDF) was organized on 13 - 14 November 2022 in Islamabad, Pakistan, back-to-back with the 16th Council Meeting of APSCO from 15 - 17 November 2022 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Furthermore, under APSCO Space Law Alliance (ASLA) mechanism we plan to extend activities and it includes opening opportunities for inviting research papers, joint research, conferences, workshops, and publications from Members of ASLA, guiding universities and institutions about the establishment of a standard curriculum in space law and policy, encouraging sharing of experiences, knowledges, and materials, etc. related to contemporary issues and space law and policy, enabling coordination of faculty members, exchange of faculty members, researchers, and students working in the field of space law and policy. All these activities would be beneficial for the capacity building in field of space law and policy for the APSCO Member States and the region.

Besides, APSCO/UNOOSA initiative on Joint Technical Workshop on National Space Legislation has been initiated to facilitate APSCO Member States to draft national space law and/or national space policy that is in line with international space law.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO is strongly committed to continue its efforts in capacity building of its Member States in space law. policy, space governance and space diplomacy. We support international space cooperation especially through UNOOSA mechanism. APSCO is open to all countries and the space community to cooperate for peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you for your attention.

Aisha Jagirani (Ms.)

Director General

Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs (ER&LA)

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)