

Statement
by
the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at
The Sixty-Third Session of
the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS

**Agenda item 13: General exchange of views on the application of international
law to small-satellite activities**

15 - 26 April, 2024
Vienna, Austria

Mr. Chairperson,

Small satellites play an exceptionally crucial role in the development of countries' space industry. The competition primary in private sector to construct and deploy small satellites, either individually or as part of a constellation, is on the rise. This aspect, combined with technical considerations related to small satellites, has prompted certain countries to prioritize and promote the establishment of standards and regulations in this field.

In light of the significance of small satellites and the need to recognize the variety of technical and economic capacities of States in space industry, it is imperative to ensure that any standards and regulations governing satellites regardless of size and weight and their operation are formulated through international cooperation and with a comprehensive outlook.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has successfully launched “Noor-3” satellite on September 2023 through Iranian Qaem-100 SLV. Noor-3 is a remote sensing satellite, joining Noor-1 and Noor-2 which were launched in 2020 and 2022, respectively.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also recently launched multiple satellites into Low Earth Orbit, at minimum orbit altitude of 450km via its Simorgh SLV. Three satellites, including a research satellite named “Mahda” and two nano-satellites named “Kayhan” and “Hatef” launched in January 2024. Furthermore the "Soraya" satellite was successfully launched into a 750-kilometer orbit using the "Qaem 100" satellite launcher.

Furthermore, “Pars”, an Iranian remote sensing satellite, was launched by Roscosmos via Soyuz space launch vehicle on February 29, 2024. Pars satellite is equipped with three imaging cameras in visible, short-wave, and thermal infrared spectral range.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that the Committee and its Subcommittees should refrain from establishing an ad-hoc legal framework or any other mechanisms that could restrict the design, construction, launch and utilization of small satellites by developing countries. Furthermore, it is reiterated that ensuring fair and equitable access to orbital positions particularly in the Low Earth Orbit based on the requirements of all states is of paramount importance.

While noting that generation of space debris is contrary to the interests of all States, it is to be emphasized that the removal or elimination of satellites should be conducted in full coordination with member States and consideration and approval by COPUOS. This approach would facilitate the empowerment of developing countries to fully utilize small satellites that would yield to foster economic growth, as well as promote sustainable development for all.

Thank you