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STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (LSC) OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD
IN VIENNA FROM 15TH TO 26TH APRIL, 2024**

DELIVERED BY

**AMB. MAURICE MAKOLOO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA
PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA TO UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MAURICE MAKOLOO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (LSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM 15TH TO 26TH APRIL, 2024

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you **Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla** on your election as the Chair of the 63rd Session of Legal Subcommittee. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I also thank your predecessor, **Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja** of South Africa, for the excellent manner in which she guided and steered deliberations during the 61st and 62nd Sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

My delegation takes this opportunity to appreciate the efforts and work being undertaken by **Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini**, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting and supporting the work of this Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Laura Gil, Permanent Representative of Colombia, on behalf of the Group of G77 and China and the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Philbert Johnson, Permanent Representative of Ghana on behalf of the African Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. The international space law regime is not only important in facilitating access to space for all, but also critical in the achievement of long-term sustainability of outer space activities. At



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the outset, my delegation wishes to underscore the importance of this Subcommittee in the promotion of international cooperation in space including in the development of norms and standards regulating space activities.

2. I am happy to report that the Government of Kenya is at the final stage of developing national space legislation. This has been made possible through efforts by local and international space law experts, and in particular, through technical support from and collaboration with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) under the "Space Law for New Space Actors" project. The Technical Advisory Mission to Kenya and the attendant capacity-building that took place from 18 to 20 April 2023 enabled key stakeholders in our space sector and partner regulatory authorities appreciate the relevance, necessity and scope of regulation of domestic space activities including the actors. The mission helped assess Kenya's priorities and needs in governance of space activities, including the specific judicial, administrative, and technical requirements. We appreciate the unwavering support from UNOOSA and partners, not only in this project, but also others before this.
3. Kenya notes that the five United Nations treaties and principles on outer space form the bedrock of the legal framework towards creating a safe, secure and sustainable environment for exploration and exploitation of space opportunities for all human kind. In this regard, the Government of Kenya has initiated the internal process of ratifying the Registration Convention to support its current and future aspirations in outer space. This will be the third instrument to be ratified by Kenya after the Outer Space Treaty and Space Liability Convention. The other instruments are also under consideration.



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4. Indeed, these instruments and their underlying principles form the basic foundation of the national space legislation currently under development. As we continue with our internal processes for the necessary ratifications, we remain committed to the noble call that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful uses. We support the initiative of development of rules and norms of responsible behaviour in outer space while guaranteeing and protecting the aspirations of developing nations and emerging space-faring nations like Kenya to pursue space exploration and exploitation as a common heritage and global commons without any inhibition.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Kenya supports the inclusion of the agenda item on “Future role and methods of work of the Committee” to address intersecting issues between the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). We believe that this approach will facilitate developing capacity of members and building consensus on complex issues with regards to implementation of instruments and proposed guidelines.

6. Furthermore, Kenya recognizes the important role that UNOOSA is playing in promoting inclusiveness and equality in the space sector under its “Space for Women” project. We particularly commend UNOOSA’s contribution towards the attainment of sustainable development goals (SDGs) Nos. 4 and 5 on “Quality Education” and “Gender Equality” respectively through its efforts in facilitating access to space, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and technical professions for women and girls throughout the world. In this connection, I am



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pleased to inform that Kenya has accepted to be the host of the next edition of the **“Space for Women” Expert Meeting** to be held in Nairobi towards the end of November 2024. We believe that this forum will further enhance awareness and build the necessary capacities on space matters among women and girls in developing nations, particularly in Africa, thereby giving them equal access to opportunities of the benefits of space exploration, science and technology. Allow me therefore, to take this early opportunity to welcome you all to Kenya.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Following the success of the inaugural **Kenya Space Expo and Conference** held in June 2022, the Kenya Space Agency intends to host the second edition themed **“Space Technologies for Societal Benefits”** from **18 to 20 June 2024** in Nairobi. The event aims to bring together representatives from government, academia, industry, professional organizations, international organizations, start-ups and the wider public to a multi-stakeholder dialogue and showcasing of the use of space applications in addressing societal challenges. We invite UNOOSA, member states, partners and all stakeholders to consider taking part in this unique biennial event.
8. Kenya fully supports the equitable use of geostationary orbit, and welcomes further discussion with Member States towards achieving consensus on a mutually beneficial model for the exploitation of the geostationary orbit. Kenya also supports the ongoing discussions of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. However, it is also our position and contention that the guidelines should not be a hindrance or bottleneck to emerging space-faring countries with regard to access to space through elevation of entry barriers from technology and cost standpoint.



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Mr. Chairman,

9. As I conclude, I wish to reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology and the supportive policy and legal framework for sustainable socio-economic development at national, regional and international levels. In this regard, Kenya looks forward to forging more fruitful partnerships on a win-win basis with other member states and, indeed, the global space community.

Thank you for your kind attention.