

Slovak Republic – Statement

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Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Slovakia fully aligns itself with European Union's statement and in our national capacity we would like to add the following:

Space policy in Slovakia is coordinated by the Slovak Space Office, which was established on the 1st January 2021 by the Government Resolution No. 635/2020 at the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.

During the past year, important milestones in the Slovak space policy were reached.

In May 2024 the Slovak Republic signed the Zero Debris Charter and strengthened its commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in space.

Building on the success of GRBAlpha (launched in 2021), the GRBBeta mission was launched in July 2024 on the maiden flight of the European Space Agency's Ariane 6. Both missions successfully demonstrate that gamma ray burst (GRB) monitoring could be performed efficiently by nano-satellites, complementing large astrophysical missions, and is paving the way for future constellations of GRB monitoring nano-satellites. The satellites also provide valuable information about the particle environment in low-Earth polar orbit during the current high solar activity.

GRBBeta was developed under the leadership of the Technical University of Košice, Faculty of Aeronautics and is the result of the work of an international team of scientists (Hungary, Czech Republic, Japan and Canada). GRBBeta was created with the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

In November last year, the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the Act No. 378 of 28 November 2024 on the Regulation of Space Activities, which entered into force on 1 February 2025. This Act governs the conduct of regulated space activities with a National Registry of Space Objects.

In December 2024, the Slovak government adopted the Slovak Space Strategy. The "Slovak Space Strategy 2030+ - Space as a Catalyst for Growth" was prepared due to the need to highlight the strategic importance and relevance of space activities in the Slovak Republic and to outline the vision and goals of their development. As this is a highly cross-cutting area, the document defines the competences of responsible ministries and informs about the current system of space activities management in the Slovak Republic with a view to their over-ministerial management in the future.

The Strategy outlines the vision for the development of space activities in Slovakia in the following areas: research and education, services for the state administration and the population, development of the space industry, security and defence, and popularisation of space activities.

The individual measures for the development of the space sector will be set out in more detail in an action plan which will follow up on this Strategy.

The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth organised the Slovak Space Forum in March 2025. The event was attended by State Secretaries of ministries responsible for the space agenda in Slovakia. The aim of this meeting was to intensify inter-ministerial cooperation in the field of space policy. At this event we could also welcome representatives of academia, the private sector, EUSPA and ESA.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its commitment to the peaceful use of outer space and is looking forward to fruitful discussions during the Committee.

Thank you.