



Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt
United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Sub-Committee
5- 16 May 2025

Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views

Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to express our appreciation to your efforts in leading this subcommittee. I wish you all the best and assure you of our full support and cooperation. I take this opportunity also to recognize and affirm my country's full support and appreciation for Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session.

Mr Chair,

Egypt fully aligns itself with the statements of the G77 and China as well as the Africa Group and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity:

Egypt, through the Egyptian Space Agency since its establishment in 2018, has embarked on an ambitious space program with the view to benefit from space sciences and applications in support of its national development agenda, in addition to our continued efforts to support space related activities and applications in the Arab region and Africa.

Egypt launched Earth observation satellites last year, which supports the implementation of SDGs not only in Egypt but also the African continent. Egypt



is currently planning for its first lunar mission in collaboration with Bahrain and China as part of the Chang`E-7 Mission. Egypt is the first African country to be part of this important milestone.

Since 2022, the Egyptian Space agency is coordinating the **African Development Satellite Project** that gathers teams from Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Sudan and Nigeria to develop a Hyperspectral Nanosatellite with ability to monitor the effect of climate change in Africa. This satellite is scheduled for launch in the first quarter of 2026.

Most notably, the inauguration of the **African Space Agency** in Cairo last month is an important milestone for Africa that will further consolidate our efforts to realize the goals of the African Union Agenda 2063. Egypt calls on all international partners to further consolidate their support and cooperation with the African Space Agency in order to transfer know how and build capacities of African nations in space sciences and applications as well as their space programs. We acknowledge the participation of the Deputy Director of UNOOSA in the inauguration ceremony of the ASA in Cairo, and we look forward to strengthening the cooperation between the ASA and UNOOSA.

Egypt also played a pivotal role in providing capacity building programs and training sessions for African countries; the **African Training Program** hosted by the Egyptian Space Agency provided capacity building activities to 71 African specialists from 34 African countries over the past 4 years. Concurrently Egypt is working to strengthen cooperation with Arab countries in the development of space technology, and leading the way to build a strategy for intra-Arab cooperation in its capacity as the chair of the Arab Group for Space Cooperation since November 2023.

Egypt also recently established a Technology Park to further consolidate public private partnerships in space sciences and applications. Private sector companies



listed in the park will have the ability to use the ESA facility and capabilities with the view to advancing the goals of the Egyptian Space Program.

Mr Chair,

Egypt takes note of the issues tabled before us in this session of the **Legal Subcommittee** and its relevant working groups and would like to reiterate the following points. My delegation would like to highlight that the following points applies to this agenda item as well as other agenda items of this subcommittee:

- 1- The Group notes the increased role of non-governmental organizations in space activities and reiterates the relevance of Article six of the Outer Space Treaty in this regard, particularly the responsibility of States Parties to the Treaty for national activities in outer space, and that the activities of non-governmental organizations in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.
- 1- Egypt believes that any endeavour to explore and utilize outer space must adhere to the principles and objectives of international law, and relevant United Nations treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty. These principles and legal instruments, including the principles of non-appropriation, benefit sharing, and equitable access should drive our discussions on emerging and evolving issues including the “Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space” as well as the “utilization of Space Resources” and “space traffic management”.
- 2- We reiterate that any regulation of outer space should aim at improving the outer space environment for the use of all states and should not, in any way, limit the full utilization of outer space activities and applications by any other state.



- 3- The sustainable use of outer space should place a special emphasis on capacity-building activities to bridge the huge divide between developed and developing countries in this domain and address the growing need to secure sufficient resources to this end. We also underscore the continued relevance of the "Space2030" Agenda and its Implementation Plan.
- 4- There is also a need to define and agree on possible emerging applications and efforts in utilization of space resources, including the role of the private sector in this regard, without prejudice to the aforementioned principles, particularly for the benefit of developing spacefaring nations, and while safeguarding their equal rights to benefit from Space and its resources
- 5- Accordingly there is a need to establish innovative support framework to consolidate the principles of benefit sharing in outer space and long term sustainability. One potential mechanism to explore is a contribution system, whereby major spacefaring nations, nontraditional donors, and private commercial sector space actors contribute to financially or in-kind to a mechanism that supports developing countries. Such mechanism can be administered by the UNOOSA. By integrating such measures into the broader governance on space activities and space resources nations can promote a fair and sustainable future where all humankind—regardless of their economic standing—can access and benefit from the opportunities that outer space offers.
- 6- Egypt supports efforts to allow for more synergies and coordination on outer space activities among space faring nations and the wider membership of COPUOS, including on lunar activities, and we welcome the establishment of an Action team to Coordinate Lunar activities co-chaired by Pakistan and Romania and we look forward to further discuss its workplan. Egypt calls for a consolidated international framework for cooperation and capacity building for Sustainable Lunar Activities that supports developing space nations.
- 7- Egypt reaffirms its firm stance on the importance of restricting the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and preventing all forms of militarization in outer space. It is



imperative to adhere to the principles of the Outer Space Treaty the corner stone of the Space Law. Egypt particularly recalls article 4 of the OST that prohibits placement of nuclear weapon or any weapon of mass destruction in outer space.

In conclusion, Egypt looks forward to this session's discussions and express its continued commitment to further enhance international cooperation and improve the peaceful uses of outer space in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair