

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the
64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee (STSC) of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
05 - 16 May 2025**

**Agenda 6 (b): Matters relating to the Character and utilization of the
Geostationary orbit**

Thank you Chair,

We believe that Geostationary Orbit (GSO) is a limited natural resource which must be available to all Member States of United Nations (UN) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on equitable basis irrespective of their technical capacities and its use must be governed by Article 44 of the ITU constitution and Outer Space Treaty of the United Nations.

It is an integral part of outer space which is supposed to be made available to all countries on an equitable basis irrespective of their technical capacities. However, it is obvious that the current dispensation governing access to the geostationary orbit is far from perfect and is suboptimal in protecting the interests of developing countries which are late entrants into the space arena and have fledgling capacities.

Chair,

Access to the Geo-Stationary Orbit (GSO) is crucial for communication and socio-economic development, particularly for developing countries. However, equitable access to Orbit & Spectrum Resources (O&SR) for GEO satellite networks face a number of legal, regulatory and technological challenges such as: rule of 'First Come, First Serve' of International Radio Regulations (IRR); technological limitations of planned bands as defined in Appendices 30/30A and 30B of IRR; emergence of Non-Geostationary Fixed Satellite Service (NGSO-FSS) constellations which is disrupting GSO marketing regime and capturing limited spectrum resources; the gradual increase in sharing of GSO satellites' spectrum with International Mobile Telecommunication (IMT) and certain provisions of ITU Radio Regulations (especially 4.4, 11.41 and 11.49) which are detrimental to interests of developing countries.

Chair,

We believe that this Subcommittee should play its due role in addressing this genuine and persistent issue that continues to negatively impact the access of developing countries to the geostationary orbit. We share the view that there are practices and technical regulations which if adjusted, in close coordination with the ITU, can lead to fairer and more equitable access to the geostationary orbit for space emerging and aspiring nations.

In this regard, we consider that in order to ensure sustainability of the optimum utilization of geostationary orbit, it is necessary to enhance resource allocations to the developing states. Applications of developing countries including Pakistan, which lost their rights at ITU regarding GSO due to delays caused in the past, should be accepted (as-force majeure) for development for the ICT sector.

I thank you.

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