



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

by

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

**The fifty ninth Session of
the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

Agenda Item 17:

Agenda Item 17: Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

7-18 February 2022
Vienna, Austria

“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

Mr. Chairman,

In the previous Report of the STSC (A/AC.105/240 58th session), and under this agenda item, 9 paragraphs out of 13, reflect the concerns of different delegations regarding the equitable use of geostationary orbit.

These large number of concerns regarding equitable access, raised continuously and repeatedly in the Technical and Scientific Subcommittee, in addition to the Legal Subcommittee, indicate that the solution to this problem is not purely legal to be discussed just at the Legal Subcommittee. It is also worth mentioning that, my delegation explained some technical aspects of the issue in the conference room paper 26 of the previous meeting (A/AC.105/C.1/2021/CRP.26) to emphasize that the issue of equitable access to GSO is deserved to be addressed by both LSC and STSC.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the views of many Member States of COPUOS, believes that there are serious deficiencies in the current regime regulating the use of geostationary orbit, therefore with all respect to efforts made by the International Telecommunication Union, the objective of equitable access to this orbit has not yet been achieved. Although the important role of ITU in finding solutions to the shortcomings of equitable access to GSO is undeniable, But it should also be noted that COPUOS and its Subcommittees are other competent bodies that are also responsible for this issue. So it is expected that the COPUOS

do not ignore this important task and do not leave the full responsibility for dealing with this issue to the ITU.

Mr. Chairman,

There are ongoing discussions in the Radiocommunication Sector of ITU (ITU-R) which is related to technical obstacles in providing equitable access to GSO, that the STSC is expected to be at least aware of.

- An example of such ITU discussions is the observations of ITU Member States on the statistics related to GSO access that could be perceived as warehousing of orbital spectrum resources and indicate the need for change in the current regulations. This subject is reflected in the recent chairman report of Working Party 4A of ITU-R (in document [4A/522](#)¹ page 21).
- There is also another concern about the utilization of GSO raised recently in the ITU by 25 African countries (in document [4A/477](#)²) and supported by some other Member States. These countries noted that the ITU aimed to provide equitable access to GSO by establishing permanent orbital and frequency resources for all member states, which is called Plan assignments, However, over time, many of these assignments became unusable due to the lack of proper regulations for long-term protection.

Mr. Chairman,

It is very essential that COPUOS and its Subcommittees have a clear understanding of these technical barriers in providing equitable access to GSO, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, proposes this Subcommittee to invite the ITU, to include an additional section in its Annual Space Report, dedicated to the

topic of equitable access to orbital and frequency resources. This new section should include a summary of the progress of the relevant ITU-R discussions such as those mentioned earlier in this statement.