

BRAZIL, ITEM 4 – “GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INTRODUCTION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.”

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MADAME CHAIR, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS/BRAZIL/UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SPACE FOR WOMEN EXPERT MEETING: INITIATIVES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN SPACE.

THE MEETING IS PART OF THE “SPACE FOR WOMEN” PROJECT (SPACE4WOMEN), WHICH IS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE. SPACE4WOMEN ENCOURAGES WOMEN AND GIRLS TO PURSUE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION AND RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT IN THE SPACE SECTOR.

THE MEETING, SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IN THE CITY OF BRASILIA, BRAZIL, IN NOVEMBER 2020, WAS POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 2021 DUE TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH SITUATION CAUSED BY THE COVID-19.

THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, REPRESENTED BY THE MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SPACE CENTRE, THE EVENT FINALLY TOOK PLACE IN THE CITY OF DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, ON THE MARGINS OF THE EXPO DUBAI, ON THE 21-22 OF OCTOBER OF 2021.

ON THE BRAZILIAN SIDE THE MEETING WAS ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MCTI), THE BRAZILIAN SPACE AGENCY (AEB) AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SPACE RESEARCH (INPE).

ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING WAS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF SPACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGIES, APPLICATIONS AND SPACE EXPLORATION; IDENTIFYING THE MAIN INITIATIVES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE AEROSPACE SECTOR; IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AEROSPACE CAREERS IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SECTOR AND MAINLY IN TERMS OF THE ACCESSIBILITY TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

ADDITIONALLY, THE MEETING WAS CRAFTED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION ON HOW SPACE TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS CAN HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT GENDERED STRUCTURES OF INEQUALITY, PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSIVENESS THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF MODELS OF WOMEN WHO CAN BE AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF CAREERS IN THE SECTOR.

FURTHERMORE, THE IDEA WAS TO USE GENDER-SENSITIVE LENSES TO LOOK AT THE EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED ATTITUDES AND GESTURES THAT REFLECT POLICIES OFTEN LEGITIMATED IN TERMS OF MASCULINE CHARACTERISTICS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE PERCEIVED INAUTHENTICITY OF WOMEN'S VOICES IN MATTERS OF POLICY-MAKING IN THE AEROSPACE AREA.

FINALLY, THE MEETING INTENDED TO DISCUSS HOW CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES CAN HELP THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS PROPOSED.

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THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD SPACE COMMUNITY FROM TWENTY (20) DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, NAMELY BRAZIL, CANADA, CHILE, ETHIOPIA, GERMANY, GHANA, INDIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, KENYA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, PARAGUAY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RUSSIA, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, AND ZIMBABWE, IN THE AREAS OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND OTHERS.

DURING THE MEETING THE PARTICIPANTS HAD THE CHANCE TO ENGAGE IN PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND LECTURES, WHOSE MAIN AIM WERE TO RAISE AWARENESS AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE FURTHER CONCRETE POLICIES AND ACTIONS TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE AREAS OF SPACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND EXPLORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SDG NUMBER 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION AND THE SDG NUMBER 5 – GENDER EQUALITY.

THE PLANNING OF THIS MEETING WAS INITIATED IN 2018 AND WAS PAVED WITH MANY CHALLENGES THAT WERE FACED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND PERSISTENCY BY THE ORGANIZERS AND STAFF WHO WORKED HARD TO TRANSFORM AN IDEA, A DREAM, INTO A REAL AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

IN THIS SENSE WE CAN ASSURE, MADAME CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, THAT THIS EVENT IS A MILESTONE FOR BRAZIL, AND TO HAVE IT DONE BRINGS US AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. WE HOPE THIS WAS ONE OF MANY OTHER JOINT BRAZIL/UNOOSA INITIATIVES TO COME.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT SPACE FOR WOMEN EXPERT MEETING TO BE HELD IN DAEJEON IN AUGUST 2022.

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ONCE MORE WE THANK UNOOSA AND MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SPACE CENTRE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENABLE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL, THE DISCUSSION OF THE

WAY FORWARD FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE SPACE SECTOR. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS LIKE THIS ONE ARE AN OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION THAT SHARING KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS IS A PLEASANT AND VIABLE WAY OF JOINTLY ADVANCING TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE 2030 AGENDA.

THANK YOU!