

## **Intervention of Romania on Agenda item 7, Space debris**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The Romanian delegation would like to share with you few endeavors concerning our national efforts to mitigating space debris.

Firstly, I would like to mention the continuing participation of Romanian entities in the development of collision avoidance tools and the commitment to the ESA programme developing In-orbit servicing and active debris removal missions.

Secondly, Romania is recognizing the space traffic management (STM) as one of the greatest challenges for the space sector. As part of our national efforts, the Operational Center for Space Surveillance and Tracking is being hosted within the premises of Romanian Space Agency. The Operational Center collects information from our network of telescopes and radars, analyses it, and then feeds in the European data base for Space Surveillance and Tracking, hosted by Germany, as part of the EUSST Partnership.

Since 2014, Romania is a member of the European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking (EU SST) Support Framework, thus contributing with sensor capabilities, data-processing and service functions to support decision making at national and regional levels. Romania continues to be a member of the EUSST Partnership and currently is developing and extending the above-mentioned optical and radar surveillance and tracking infrastructure, also with a view to accommodate additional new technological upgrades for optical communication and quantum capabilities.

At the national level, the Prime-Minister decision no. 519 of 2022 established the Inter-ministerial Committee for the development of the normative framework regarding the regulation of activities in outer space. The committee analyzes the international legislation applicable to state activities in outer space and presents to the institutions with attributions in the field proposals for the elaboration of the normative framework regarding the regulation of national space activities.

In addition, we would also would like to share a couple of events that demonstrate our efforts in promoting responsible and sustainable behavior to our community of interest.

In May 2022 the Romanian Space Agency has been the host of the Conference and Exhibition "Space and Security for Eastern Europe". Placed in the context of recent regional events, but also as a natural consequence of Romania's involvement in space security throughout the years, the event aimed to discuss the strategic national and European plans regarding space capabilities and critical infrastructures.

The Romanian Space Agency, in cooperation with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) organized so far a series of eleven Conferences on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures, the most recent one had the theme "Sciences, Services, Security" and took place on 4-5 August 2022 in Romania.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished delegates, for your attention.