

6-17 February 2023

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

**AT THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

AGENDA ITEM 3. GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

I am honored to share with you the remarkable progress and exciting future plans of the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA). In June 2018 Rwanda established a working group focused on space, followed by the establishment of Rwanda Space Agency later in 2020. In November 2019, Rwanda made history by launching its first satellite, RWASAT-1.

One of our key ways of achieving our goals is through geohub products, which support precision agriculture and provide data-driven decision making. For example, satellite imagery has proven invaluable in informed urban planning and development, while satellite data also helps in effective disaster management through its monitoring of gases emissions, landslides, and floods. One of our most notable achievements was in our response to the Nyiragongo volcanic eruptions in 2021, where our satellite data provided crucial insights for disaster management.

In 2022, RSA became a member of the International Astronautical Federation and signed the Artemis Accords, affirming our commitment to responsible and sustainable space exploration. We are also developing a 10-year strategic plan and a national space policy to be completed by March 2023. RSA is also proud to operate the Rwanda Climate Observatory, which plays a crucial role in measuring greenhouse gases (GHG) and weather parameters and other climate change factors as well as building skills in storing, processing and archiving GHG data from different sectors.

Looking to the future, RSA is focused on advancing its capabilities in Earth observation analysis, building a national geospatial data center, manufacturing small

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satellites, and developing satellite manufacturing capabilities. We are also working to expand our Satcomms and terrestrial station network.

Mr. Chairman,

At RSA, we are also deeply committed to the peaceful use of space, as outlined in Outer Space Treaty. This includes deconflicting space activities and promoting the responsible use of space for the benefit of all nations.

In conclusion, RSA is rapidly becoming a key player in the global space community, and we are committed to using space technology in the peaceful and responsible manner for the benefit of all nations. We are proud of our achievements and excited about the future.

Thank you.