



**Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna**

**60th SESSION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
(STSC)**

**Statement by
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese**

Item 3: general exchange of views

Vienna, 7 February 2023

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, including the strongest possible condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, but allow me to add few remarks in my national capacity.

First, let me congratulate you, Mister Chair, dear Francisco, for presiding over this session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and for your commitment. And I also wish to thank all the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Mister Chairman,

Italy, through its scientific community and its space industry, plays a leading role in the field of space science and technologies and, in this domain, remains committed to align its activities to the agreed Long Term Sustainability Guidelines. This is reflected in our National Security Strategy for Space, approved in July 2019. As you know, we are also actively participating in the new Working Group on LTS and we provided our written contribution last November.

I wish also to restate Italy's commitment to support the principles of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related UN Space 2030 Agenda, which was negotiated in a COPUOS Working Group that I had the honour to co-chair.

We look forward to advancing this agenda and our discussion, in particular in view of the Sustainable Development Goal Summit in September 2023 and the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

Space plays a key role for the sustainable future of our planet, also economically. Missions focused on Earth observation are crucial for the investigation of climate change-driven phenomena, to observe and manage the environment, the seas, the urban areas.

Under agenda item 6, in few minutes, we will address the relevance of remote sensing technologies, but I wish to recall the importance of these applications in case of natural disasters, as we are witnessing with the terrible earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria yesterday morning, where the Emergency Management Service of the European system Copernicus has been promptly activated. On this, allow me to reiterate our deepest solidarity to the people affected.

Mister Chairman,

Many important achievements for the Italian space sector marked the 2022.

In May, ASI launched a new, innovative program named Alcor, in honour of the smaller of the two Ursa Major constellation stars. As we consider nano satellites one of the key elements for the future development of space, we invested in the Alcor fleet, which will count 20 of such satellites, to focus on in-orbit demonstration, earth observation, planetary exploration, space weather, telecommunications and autonomous navigation.

On 11 September, our mini satellite “Light Italian Cubesat for Imaging of Asteroids (so called LICIACube)” was released by the NASA space probe called Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) in order to collect images of the DART’s impact on the asteroid Dimorphos. After a couple of orbital

maneuvers commanded by Earth, LICIACube succeeded in autonomously tracking its final target and in performing a flyby of the asteroid at the distance of about 58km. The 627 pictures and time-lapse videos collected captured the effects of the impact. Our delegation will deliver a technical presentation on 10 February to present these successful results.

Another Italian CubeSat, Argomoon, was aboard of the Space Launch System (SLS) carrier rocket, to produce images of the second stage of the Artemis 1 mission.

The hypothetical Near Earth Object (NEO) threat exercise launched by the Italian Space Agency delegation at the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) has completed its first phase in 2022 and a second phase will be kicked-off in the next SMPAG meeting, during this session.

Finally, in December 2022 the fourth edition of the New Space Economy European Expoforum (NSE), organized by the Fondazione Edoardo Amaldi, took place. NSE offers a yearly outlook on the most interesting trends in the space sector and gathers visitors, participants, public and private stakeholders and international organizations in a global dynamic format.

Mr. Chair,

Along with the exponential growth of space activities at global level, opportunities for international collaborations have also increased, and

indeed a cooperative approach is the only one that can ensure a sustainable, peaceful and equitable access to space.

Italy, through its Space Agency, signed several agreements and continues to develop and deepen cooperation and partnerships both at bilateral and multilateral level.

Last November, the European Space Agency Ministerial Conference approved the new budget, for almost 17 billion €, and Italy was the main contributor for the optional programs with more than 3 billion.

Needless to say, Italy will continue to support the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Finally, allow me to conclude by mentioning how the Italian space industry is now contributing to this cooperative approach. The Italian Launch System Provider AVIO and UNOOSA have joined forces to provide a launch opportunity - using a Vega C launcher - for a CubeSat developed by a developing country. On Friday 10 February at 1 pm we will announce the selected project. If you want to know more, I invite you all to join us in the Press Room.

Thank you.