



STATEMENT BY MR. HILLARY BIWOTT KIPKOSGEY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL KENYA SPACE AGENCY, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 6TH TO 17TH FEBRUARY 2023

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Allow me to begin by thanking you **Dr. Juan Francisco Facetti** for ably guiding and steering the discussions during this 60th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

Kenya also takes this opportunity to appreciate the efforts and work being undertaken by **Mr. Niklas Hedman**, the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat in organizing for this meeting amidst challenging times occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic among others.

Kenya welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the Africa Group and by the Group of 77 and China, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. As a developing and aspiring nation in the space sector, Kenya appreciates the role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries. I am happy to report that Kenyan beneficiary institutions have commenced implementation of projects under the following "Access to Space for All" joint initiatives:

a. The collaborative project "BARIDI SANA - High-Performance Micro 2-Phase Cooling System for Space Applications" implemented by the Sapienza University of Rome in Italy, In Quattro s.r.l. in Italy, and the Machakos University in Kenya will be tested onboard China's Space Station.

b. The collaborative project "Egypt-Kenya-Uganda Climate Camera (EKU ClimCam) – an imaging system to monitor a series



of problems caused by Climate Change” implemented by the Egyptian Space Agency, the Kenya Space Agency and the Uganda National Space Programme to be hosted on the Airbus Bartolomeo external platform on the International Space Station.

c. The Kenyan Space Observation and Research Telescope (K-SORT Project), led by Kenya Space Agency in partnership with the University of Nairobi, Pwani University and the National Museums of Kenya, to host a telescope through the ISONscope programme. The K-SORT Project aims at monitoring Near-Earth Objects, space debris, space weather events and also promote and support space science and research activities for our university students. With this project, Kenya aims to contribute towards the work of the International Asteroid Warning Network and Space Mission Planning Advisory Group.

d. The University of Nairobi OG Peace Mission 2030 (OG2030) in collaboration with the University of Arizona and Space Trust to develop and launch a 3U nanosatellite aboard the Vega-C rocket with support from NOOSA, toward Space2030 and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman

2. These collaborative initiatives truly demonstrate the contribution of international cooperation towards capacity building in developing nations. We therefore appreciate and celebrate the important role of the partnering institutions and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in making the objectives of “Space 2030” Agenda a reality.

3. In the spirit of cooperation and making the African Space Agency a reality, Kenya is collaborating with Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda implementing a joint project to build in-country capacity in space systems engineering and space operations through development of a small satellite under the African Development Satellite initiative. These efforts complement existing programmes on use of space-derived data and development of applications.

4. I am happy to report that the Kenya Space Agency successfully hosted the inaugural Kenya Space Expo & Conference in Nairobi from 15 to 17 June 2022. The theme of the event was “Leveraging Space Capabilities for National Development” with a focus on utilization of space science, technologies and applications to provide solutions to



socio-economic challenges and in the development of the national economy. The three-day event was conducted in concurrent sessions covering Earth Observation and Remote Sensing; Space Systems Engineering; and Space Science and Astronomy. In addition, there were industry exhibitions of technologies, products and services by over 25 international and local exhibitors, and several poster presentations by start-ups.

5. The conference noted the great contribution that international cooperation plays in capacity building and co-development of solutions to common challenges faced regionally and globally such as climate change. Kenya thus seeks to enter into strategic international partnerships as well as strengthening internal coordination and collaborations with stakeholders. The need to create an enabling policy, legal and regulatory framework that is industry-centric instead of government-centric to facilitate the growth of the private sector players as the driver of development of an indigenous space industry and space economy.

6. We have started this year with co-hosting an interesting event with 100 Year Starship®, Nexus 2023 — the hybrid space gathering designed for people from all walks of life — in Nairobi, Kenya from 31 January to 4 February 2023. Themed, “When Space, Purpose, and Culture Collide,” Nexus 2023 was a powerful, interactive, five-day event open to the public with attendees, both in-person and online, actively engaging with speakers, experts and special guests in workshops and challenges, classes, receptions, keynotes, panels, networking, Thought Pools, celebrations and awards.

7. 100 Year Starship® is an independent, inclusive, long-term global initiative established 10 years ago and led by former astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison to ensure the technical, social and economic capabilities for enabling human travel beyond our solar system exist within the next 100 years. This initiative also ensures the innovations and ideas from space exploration improve life here on Earth for everyone.

8. As I conclude, I am pleased to announce that Kenya is on course to launch TAIFA-1 satellite aboard SpaceX Transporter-7 Rideshare mission on Falcon 9 rocket in April 2023. TAIFA-1 is a Multi-Spectral Earth Observation nano-satellite targeting application in agriculture, environmental monitoring and natural resource monitoring.



9. **Mr. Chairman**, I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development.

Thank you.