

Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of Views

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Sixtieth Session February 6, 2023

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, we extend our deep condolences over the loss of lives in Turkiye-Syria earthquake earlier today.

It is my great pleasure to join you today to address the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 60th session. Mr. Chair, we appreciate your leadership and are confident that we will make important strides under your able stewardship. We also thank the Director and the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their contributions.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the decision of the Subcommittee under which more delegates are able to participate in this meeting in person. We look forward to a complete return to the Subcommittee as before the COVID-19 pandemic for more interactive discussions.

With an explosive increase in space activities, diversification of space actors and rapid development of technologies these days, our works need to keep pace with such development. As my delegation in Geneva put great efforts into the discussion on space security to develop norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, my delegation here will also actively participate in the meeting to advance the discussion on space safety and sustainability. Both discussions should continue following the distinct mandates of each forum.

Last year in August, Korea launched Danuri, the Korea Pathfinder

Lunar Orbiter, for the first time in its history. After a voyage of 7.3 million kilometers over 145 days, Danuri reached the moon. Equipped with five payloads invented by our research institute and universities as well as a ShadowCam provided by NASA, Danuri will show us shadowed regions of the lunar poles and help us plan future missions there, including landing humans on the poles. With this new beginning, Korea wishes to participate more actively in space exploration projects in cooperation with other States.

To implement the Space 2030 Agenda, Korea hosted two international events last year. The *Space4Women Expert Meeting* gathered almost 100 experts from 80 countries and encouraged discussion on possible ways to promote women's engagement in space science, technology, innovation and exploration. The meeting of the *Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee* highlighted increasing concern for the space environment in the new space era as well as the need for further development of guidelines and active removal services.

Along with continued development and global engagement, the new Korean administration recently announced the Space Economy Roadmap and the Fourth Basic Plan for Space Development Promotion.

The Space Economy Roadmap includes Korea's space activity plan and vision until 2045 and strongly focuses on the commercial side of space. As a first step, we are planning to launch the Korea Administration for Space and Aeronautics this year. The Fourth Basic Plan also highlights efforts to promote the private sector's participation and engagement throughout the next five years.

We are also evolving our laws and systems. The chair of our National Space Committee has been elevated from the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic of Korea. We are also planning to develop a comprehensive legal framework considering multi-stakeholders.

Mr. Chair,

Korea is entering a new phase in its space development history. And we would like to reaffirm that ensuring a safe, secure and sustainable space environment lies at the heart of our space policies and plans. My delegation will actively participate in the following two weeks discussions to present our responsible space activities and policies with details.

With these remarks, the Republic of Korea looks forward to constructive discussions and a fruitful outcome. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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