

**UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Sixtieth Session**  
**Vienna, 06 - 17 February 2023**

**Statement of the Delegation of Romania**  
**Agenda item 3: General exchange of views**

Distinguished delegates,

Mister Chairman, Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, let me congratulate you, on behalf of the Delegation of Romania, on your efficient chairmanship and to transmit to you the support of my delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate.

We would also express our appreciation to the Acting OOSA Director, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his role in the achievements of this Committee, and to the staff of the secretariat, for the excellent activity.

Mr. Chairman, since the last session of the Committee space activities extended as volume and areas of coverage. Scientific and exploration missions followed the current pace. However, space developments with direct impact to our planet and civilization had an unprecedented growing evolution. And I can mention here the services oriented to Earth which are providing secure and safe telecommunications, timing, positioning and navigation, Earth surface, atmosphere and interior monitoring, most of them critical for the achieving of the SDGs. Space systems are actually major assets needed for the protection of our planet and civilization, for the safety of the citizen to national and global security.

Space systems are globally increasingly being recognized as critical infrastructure for planet Earth. The process of officially recognizing space as an area for critical infrastructures was initiated more than ten years ago by international organizations and several nations, including Romania.

Within those evolutions, we reaffirm our support for COPUOS and its Subcommittees as unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. COPUOS is by far the only global forum where those feature of our dynamic evolving civilization can be considered and brought to global rules and consensus. We also recognize the important role of UNOOSA in supporting this work.

Romania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union in all its components and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Romania as a European Union (EU) country and a European Space Agency (ESA) member state is participating to their programmes and applications. Romania, through Romanian Space Agency, develops its own space programme in concordance and complementarity with other international programs. By a strategy based on Science and technology, Services and Security the space activities are carried in Romania by a variety of organisations, public and private, as institutes, universities, industry, SME's.

Mister Chairman, I will mention a few activities developed by Romania since the last session of the Committee.

I am pleased to report that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, Romania has become the 16<sup>th</sup> country to sign the Artemis Accords initiated by NASA, affirming its commitment to a set of principles for cooperation in the civil exploration and to further invest in Moon and Mars Exploration.

In May 2022 the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) organized 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. The advancements of this topics and the skills developed in Romania conducted to the establishment of a ROSA Centre on Space Critical Infrastructures and Security, which is also supporting the UN-SPIDER regional support centre in Bucharest for disaster management.

Romania is participating in the European Space Agency's all major programs on Science and Exploration, Human Spaceflight, Safety and Security, Earth Observation, Telecommunications and Integrated Applications, Navigation, Space transportation.

Romania continued the participation to space science missions as Euclid and Juice. Romanian scientists are involved in the important LISA collaboration on gravitational waves in preparation of a large space gravitational observatory.

Romania continued support in developing tools for the monitoring and protection of our planet. On Item 10 I would like to mention the participation to the ESA mission ALTIUS which will measure both stratospheric ozone and other atmospheric trace gases such as nitrogen dioxide and aerosols that affect air quality. Another important participation is the ESA - UK mission TRUTHS which will improve the capability to estimate radiative imbalance underlying

climate change. The ground and airborne lidar instruments operational in Bucharest are measuring the aerosols content in the atmosphere. ROSA is member of the Space Climate Observatory agreement since its establishment.

As concerning Item 7 of the Agenda, Space debris, 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. Contributions to space weather monitoring are given by geo-magnetic data from a sensitive observatory near Surlari, Bucharest, coupled with satellite data to monitor space weather events. Periodic Solar Weather Bulletins are released by the Bucharest group in the last two years. Romania announced the participation to the ESA L5 space-weather mission.

In the area of Near-Earth Objects (Item 11), I would also mention the relevant participation of Romanian scientists and engineers in the definition and development phase of the ESA mission called HERA devoted to asteroids survey. I can also mention the technical progress in building the Solar coronagraph for the PROBA-3 ESA mission. My delegation is participating with experts in the SMPAG.

Also, Romania is supporting the actions that the International Astronomical Union is undertaking for the protection of the dark and quiet sky for science and society (Item 17) and we support the establishment of an Expert Group, as proposed.

We look forward to participating and actively contributing to the work of COPUOS and its Subsidiary Bodies, including their Working Groups.

We welcome the progress made by the Working Group on the Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (Item 12) under the chairship of India. We will continue to participate with a constructive approach in the upcoming discussions and review of the guidelines .

Thank you, distinguished delegates, for your attention.