

## ESA Statement at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee



### Agenda item 3. 'General Exchange of Views'

07 February 2023

1. Let me first commend you, Mr. Chair, on your excellent work leading this Subcommittee. Let me also appreciate and thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the professional preparation, support and guidance. As a permanent observer, the European Space Agency remains committed to make a positive contribution to this session of the Subcommittee.
2. Let me highlight the following institutional news:
  - At its Council Meeting at Ministerial Level in November 2022 Ministers took the decision to increase ESA's budget by a record 17% and committed €16.9 Billion over 5 years, endorsing an ambitious programmatic plan to date for the future of ESA and the whole European space sector.
  - €2.7 Billion were devoted to ESA's Earth observation programme, including a major commitment for FutureEO, ESA's world-leading Earth science, research and development programme.
  - With €3.2 Billion dedicated to ESA's science programme, ESA will implement the missions from its Cosmic Vision programme while preparing the new space science programme, Voyage 2050, which defines the broad scope of ESA science from 2035 to 2050.
  - €2.7 Billion were approved for the next phase of Terra Novae, ESA's new world's space exploration programme focussing on low Earth orbit, the Moon and Mars. Terra Novae leads Europe's human journey into the Solar System using robots as precursors and scouts.
  - Budget was also agreed for projects under ESA's space safety programme. These include the Vigil mission to monitor solar activity, the Hera probe to survey in impacted asteroid, and a mission to remove space debris from orbit.
  - European Ministers also decided to extend European participation in the International Space Station up to 2030.
  - The inauguration of ESA's new Space Safety Centre, which is dedicated to monitoring and responding to space weather hazards. The centre demonstrates ESA's commitment to protecting Europe's space missions and ground infrastructure from unpredictable solar outbursts.
  - In November 2022 the Director General introduced the members of the new 2022 ESA astronaut class. 17 new astronaut candidates were chosen from more than 22500 applicants from across ESA Member States.

3. Distinguished delegates, despite the current geopolitical challenges that also affected the European space programme, we are proud to have witnessed several important space-related milestones during 2022. Let me highlight, in all brevity, the following ones to illustrate the range and impact of ESA's activities:
  - Many space missions brought us historic moments, including the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope and the first spacewalks for ESA astronauts Matthias Maurer and Samantha Cristoforetti who became also the first female European astronaut to command the ISS.
  - The much-anticipated third data release from ESA's Gaia mission in June provides a goldmine of research material for astronomers around the world. Having already mapped more than two billion stars including high-precision position, motion parameters and stellar distances, Gaia offers even more detail and new discoveries. The mission has thus revolutionised galactic astronomy.
  - The successful Artemis 1 mission in November and December was not only a milestone for our US partners but for Europe as well. Launched by the first SLS on 16 November the Orion capsule with its European Service Module performed perfectly. The European Service Module provides propulsion, cabin thermal control for astronauts on lunar missions as well as breathable atmosphere and drinking water to all upcoming Artemis missions.
4. Distinguished delegates, although 2022 brought remarkable results to the European space sector, we expect 2023 to be at least similar exciting:
  - In April we expect the launch of Europe's JUICE mission that will characterise Jupiter's icy moons - Ganymede, Europa and Callisto - as planetary objects and potential habitats and explore Jupiter's complex environment in depth. JUICE will be launched on the last Ariane 5 launch.
  - In May/June the ambitious Sentinel-1C mission, equipped with advanced radar technology and providing day and night images of Earth's surface, will be launched and will supplement the Copernicus EO satellite fleet.
  - In summer this year the Euclid mission will be launched. Euclid will explore the evolution of the 'dark Universe'. It will create a 3D map of the Universe (with time as the third dimension) by observing billions of galaxies at up to 10 billion light-years.
  - In August 2023 ESA astronaut Andreas Mogensen, will fly to the ISS for a six-month mission focused on science in orbit.
5. Distinguished delegates, let us conclude by emphasising ESA's commitment to remain an active, dutiful member of the international space community, exploring and using outer space, working towards capacity and partnership building, strengthening the rule of law in outer space and, last but not least, contributing as a permanent observer in a meaningful way to the important work of this Committee.

*Thank you.*