

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: 60th Session

General Exchange of Views

Uri Oron – Director, Israel Space Agency

Thank you Mr. Chair,

First, allow me to wish the Committee and the Secretariat good luck in the upcoming session of the STSC. We recognize the important work of this body, as well as the working groups operating under it, and we offer Israel's full support.

I am honored to be physically present in this subcommittee for the first time since assuming the role of Director of the Israel Space Agency. This year the Agency commemorated 40 years to its inception, and I can think of no better place to share the latest steps we have taken as well as our vision for the future.

Mr. Chair,

Israel supports the peaceful uses of outer space, and pursues its national interests in space with this goal in mind. Subsequently, Israel's vision of promoting space science, its local space eco-system, space education, and space diplomacy, are all pursued in full regards of international law, and the longstanding commitment to long term space safety and sustainability.

In regards to space science, Israel has actively participated in several breakthrough missions last year, such as the first ever private mission to the ISS, the "Rakia", or AX-1 Mission, where the second Israeli Astronaut Eytan Stibbe performed over 40 experiments in many research fields. Later that year, Israel became one of the first active contributors to the Artemis Program, when it introduced the "MARE" experiment with the German Space Agency on the Artemis-1 Mission.

In the coming years, Israel expects to continue its leadership in space, by launching two new important mission, such as the follow up mission to Beresheet – "Beresheet 2", which will launch in 2025, with the mission to not only reach the moon, but to land 2 landers in two different locations. Additionally, the "ULTRASAT" satellite, jointly developed with NASA, is expected to be launched in 2026, and help solve some of the biggest astrophysical questions today. Israel is also playing a significant part in the "JUICE" Mission by the European Space Agency, contributing important technology as

well as research to the project, that is expected to launch in the coming months to study Jupiter and its moons.

As for the national space ecosystem, Israel is taking steps to fill the necessary gaps in infrastructure, to assist the growth of the industry, as well as address the need for better and more consistent access to space for its emerging startup companies. Furthermore, we are working to establish a vibrant space community, connecting government, industry and academia under one umbrella.

Israel is also a firm believer in the need for better space education. Less than a week ago we have launched our flagship program "TEVEL 2", where high school students build and launch nanosatellites across different communities. This very unique program has already launched 8 nanosatellites just last year, and this time will also look to collaborate with international schools and communities. Israel is also conducting other community and outreach activities to promote space education all year round.

Lastly, Israel has always looked to space as a bridge for international cooperation, both between nations, but also with the greater international community. Alongside the continued cooperation in space with our traditional allies, we have looked to establish new partnerships with regional states. Some of these efforts have already bore fruit, as Israel and the United Arab Emirates have launched a joint research in late 2022, and we are confident this is just the beginning.

At the international arena, Israel will continue to be an active player at the UN Office of Outer Space, participating in the meetings of COPOUS, as well as being represented in UN-SPIDER, IAWN and SMPAG. We are also proud to support Space4Women, agreeing to host its annual meeting in Israel in 2024. Israel attaches great importance to pressing issues such as climate change and environment monitoring, and sees space as a critical asset in this context, to be leveraged with regional and international partners. Lastly, we have just successfully concluded the 18th Ilan Ramon International Space Conference, which helped solidify Israel's standing as a global leader in space.

To conclude, as we look back at a very busy and positive 2022, Israel will remain engaged with COPOUS and the international community, to jointly succeed in achieving even greater goals in the coming years, both globally and nationally.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.