

Agenda Item No. 07: Space Debris

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates

The threat of space debris impacting operating satellite or manned spacecraft is a significant cause of concern to today's space community. More and more nations are endeavoring to utilize space by deploying their assets, thus space is slowly getting congested. The criticality of the issue for sustainability of outer space, necessitates responsible behaviour by all space faring nations. These issues are more pronounced at the Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Pakistan supports all efforts to implement the Space •Debris Mitigation Guidelines in not only reducing the existing debris but also limiting the formation of new clutter.

Mr. Chairman

Pakistan is hosting one of the three Observations & Training Nodes (OTNs) being operated by SUPARCO under the framework of APSCO for tracking and cataloguing space debris in Low Earth Orbit. The facility is envisaged to be updated by installing larger telescope for tracking and validating the orbits of debris in Medium Earth Orbit and Geostationary Orbit under APSCO's Astronomical Space Science Observatories (APSSO) project. A regional data centre is going to be established in Pakistan being part of network of tracking telescopes in Asia-Pacific region. This would enhance the monitoring capability of APSCO member states, thus will pave the way towards enhanced safety and security of space assets.

Mr. Chairman

At present, few networks are archiving the space debris data which is being used to address their effects. The access to this data should be available to all countries. The developed countries have a more active role and responsibility to share the knowledge and skills with emerging space countries. This would enable performing detailed space debris analysis and new orbit decay technologies during satellite mission design resulting

in reducing the probable space debris to be injected by developing countries in future. The suggested actions would facilitate the developing countries to control the generation of space debris while launching application satellites for the development of the country.

Thank you Mr. Chairman