

Item 15 : Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

By Parwati Sofan, Ph.D

Madam Chair,

Based on OST 1967, GSO as a part of outer space and as a limited natural resource has specific characteristics and conditions and therefore shall be considered as a specific area in outer space. We believe that there should be a specific technical and legal governance since GSO possesses strategic and economic value for the countries that use it.

As a consequence of the physical limitation, GSO should be utilized in a rational, balanced, efficient, and equitable manner. These principles are very important to be implemented to prevent GSO from saturation.

Indonesia reiterates that Article 44 of the ITU Constitution clarifies that access to and allocation of the GSO shall be done on an equitable basis, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries, in arriving a balance in the use and management of the orbit/spectrum resources.

Consistent with the objectives of Article 44 of the ITU Constitution, Indonesia calls ITU Resolution 219 PP-22 – Part II urgent for relevant studies on the issue of increasing the use of radio spectrum and orbital resources, including the long-term sustainability of these resources, as well as equitable access to, and rational and compatible use of, both GSO orbital and spectral resources, including without forgetting the non-GSO trend.

Indonesia believes the trend of mega-constellations of satellites could bring a new approach to establish nationwide telecommunication networks.

However, geostationary satellites would continue to be irreplaceable for Indonesia due to our unique geographical conditions under which they operate, and thus, there is a strong need to preserve the geostationary orbit region.

In addition, Indonesia recalls that until now geostationary orbit slots are not proportionally distributed among countries. Hence, we welcome the LTS Guidelines which protect GSO region though more efforts are required.

Chair,

It is very unfortunate that despite numerous and repeated concerns expressed over the years by member States under this agenda item relating to the use of the geostationary orbit, to date, the Subcommittee had not developed any practical solutions to address those concerns.

In this respect, Indonesia would like to propose that UNCOPUOS should continue the efforts to urge, discuss with, and provide recommendations to the ITU to streamline discussions between the two bodies about the issues of GSO's utilization.

Indonesia views that equality in the use of frequency spectrum and GSO orbital slots needs to be agreed by all UNCOPUOS members as has been agreed by all ITU members, so that GSO usage practices can be rational, balanced, efficient, and equitable manner.

Relating to role of ITU, Indonesia takes note the WRC-23 in Dubai as the culmination of the global 4-year frequency spectrum discussions. WRC-23 finally approves the inclusion of the name Indonesia in Footnote 5.162A ITU-RR which legalized the use of the 46-68 MHz frequency.

Footnote 5.162A related to the radiolocation services on the secondary basis enables Indonesia to operate wind profiler radar at frequency 46-68 MHz in several locations along the equatorial line to observe the atmospheric climate which is part of the atmospheric climate global network.

Finally, upon such consideration of the interest and needs of the developing countries, especially in relation to their geographical position, we would like to request that the GSO remain on the agenda for the 62nd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS in 2025.

Thank you