



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
61st session, Vienna, 29 January-9 February 2024**

Item 4: General Exchange of Views

STATEMENT BY GREECE

Madame Chair,

As this is the first time that our delegation is taking the floor on this agenda item, we would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election and wishing you success in your important task. We would also like to express our appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Facetti of Paraguay, for having skillfully guided the work of STSC over the past two years. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Aarti Holla-Maini, for her appointment as the new Director of UNOOSA and to extend to her our best wishes for every success in her endeavours as well as our willingness to support her work.

Mme Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Greece fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered yesterday on this agenda item. Furthermore, we extend our appreciation for the continuous efforts of COPUOS and its Subcommittees in fostering an inclusive dialogue, which serves as a cornerstone for international cooperation and the shaping of space policy. Greece confirms its long-standing support to their work and reaffirms its faith in the United Nations treaties on Outer Space and in the UN General Assembly sets of principles.

Moreover, in my national capacity and in particular as a representative of the Hellenic Space Center, which is the Space Agency of Greece, operating under the Ministry of Digital Governance, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an overview of Greece's ongoing space activities and some of the primary objectives of the Greek national strategic plan for Space.

During the past year, Greece faced devastating natural disasters, namely extensive wildfires and floods, prompting the government to pivot the National MicroSatellite Program. The renewed focus is on selected Earth Observation products, including high-resolution, high-revisit time, optical-thermal-SAR imaging of the Hellenic territory, through the development of several, multi-purpose small satellites. These satellite products will support *space-system-based disaster management*, will serve systematic user needs such as high-resolution mapping, and will supplement already available observations (through the European Union Copernicus program) towards effective monitoring of climate change.

At the same time, Greece is actively investing in upgrading critical infrastructures to support the implementation of the national microsatellite program. Key initiatives include the upgrade of the Hellenic Aerospace Industry for micro-satellite assembly and the development and operation of a

Space Debris Tracking Radar as part of the European Union Space Situational Tracking (EU-SST) Program.

Furthermore, emphasis is placed on innovative *Space Weather* monitoring solutions onboard LEO micro-satellites. These solutions aim to provide near-real-time measurements of space radiation, crucial for hindcasting and assessing Single Event Effects caused by energetic protons on satellite electronics.

Mme Chair, distinguished colleagues,

As an emerging space nation, Greece is formulating a dynamic space strategy focused on well-identified national needs. We are eager to actively contribute to discussions within the Workshop of the *Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities*, aligning our efforts with the central governmental goal of supporting national space activities and promoting sustainability. Greece also welcomes the continuous efforts within the Workshop of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and we are looking forward to contributing to the constructive discussions.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that Greece, through its new space program and developing space strategy, is committed to actively contributing to the promotion of international cooperation in the space domain within the provisions of international law and the Outer Space Treaty.

Thank you Mme Chair.