

61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item No. 04 “General Exchange of Views and Introduction of Reports Submitted on National Activities”

**To be delivered by Marc Caesar R. Talampas, Ph.D.
Director IV, Space Technology Missions and Systems Bureau**

Thank you, Chair.

Chair and distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Director Aarti Holla-Maini for her appointment as the new Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in June 2023. Director Holla-Maini is assured of the Philippines’ full support in its crucial work to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space. We would also like to express our appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman for his leadership during the 60th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) held on 06-17 February 2023.

Chair,

The Philippines, as an emerging space-capable nation, will ensure adherence to the rules, regulations, and commitments made under the five United Nations treaties and principles on outer space while conducting its space activities, as well as the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The country is fully aware of the importance of these treaties and guidelines in promoting peace and ensuring sustainability in outer space.

Allow us to share that the Philippines successfully launched two (2) of its cube satellites, named Maya-5 and Maya-6, to the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2023 and were successfully deployed in space on 19 July 2023. Notably, these satellites were developed by Filipino graduate students from the University of the Philippines, showcasing our commitment to nurturing homegrown talent and expertise in the field of space technology.

Furthermore, we would like to share the continued development of the Philippines’ Multispectral Unit for Land Assessment (MULA) satellite. Filipino engineers are actively working with an international partner within a comprehensive capacity-building program for industrial satellite development. The MULA satellite, a 130kg medium-resolution Earth observation satellite, is primarily designed for agricultural monitoring missions, thereby bolstering our food security initiatives. We eagerly anticipate the launch of MULA into orbit and its operational commencement in 2025.

The Philippines leverages international collaboration and expertise to advance our space science and technology capabilities. We are collaborating with the European

Philippines, Item 4

Union on the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines, known as CopPhil. CopPhil integrates with our efforts in the Philippines in mobilizing space data products for enhancing the efficiency of science-based policy and decision-making. The Philippines will host a Copernicus Data Mirror site, thus improving the accessibility and distribution of Earth observation data from the Copernicus Sentinel satellites of the European Space Agency within the country and the region. Under the program, we shall also be implementing three pilot services focusing on ground motion monitoring, land cover and forest mapping services, and benthic habitat monitoring services.

Our commitment to global collaboration and knowledge-sharing is further exemplified by our participation in the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information Project and the Pandora Asia Network (PAPGAPI-PAN). These engagements position the Philippines as an active participant in international efforts to utilize multi-platform observation for air quality monitoring and modeling. We will be hosting the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Technical Commission V Education and Outreach Symposium this year, which will serve as another platform to engage the international community in capacity building.

Recognizing the increasing accessibility of space data and technology, we are dedicated to broadening local understanding and awareness of their applications and benefits. The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) is expanding its collaborative efforts by establishing several data-sharing agreements with various Philippine government agencies. These partnerships focus on leveraging space data to contribute to digital transformation efforts of our government towards ensuring good governance.

Finally, Mr. Chair, in recognition of the pivotal role played by space science and technology applications in our national development, we are happy to share news that our President, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., has proclaimed the 8th to 14th of August each year as Philippine Space Week. This initiative not only enhances space awareness and honors the remarkable contributions of Filipinos in space science globally, but it also underscores the significance and impact of SSTA on Filipino lives.

Thank you, Chair.