

## **Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of Views**

### **Republic of Korea**

#### **UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Sixty-first Session January 29, 2024**

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Madam Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend our warm congratulation to you, Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu, on your election as a Chair. We assure you of the Republic of Korea's unwavering support and cooperation. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chair, H.E. Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti, for his exceptional leadership during challenging global circumstances. We extend our gratitude to the Director and the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their contributions.

Madam Chair,

We strongly condemn the DPRK for its unlawful launch of so called military reconnaissance satellite. I would like to make it clear that any launch that uses ballistic missile technology is prohibited by multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

Madam Chair,

We find ourselves in an era where space exploration and technology have transitioned from mere aspirations to tangible realities that impact every aspect of our lives. The Republic of Korea, firmly committed to the

peaceful use of outer space, has made significant strides in advancing our national space capabilities while adhering to international norms and actively contributing to global space governance. In this spirit, we are proud to announce the establishment of the Korea Administration for Space and Aeronautics (KASA). With relevant legislation passed in January, we are on track to formally establish KASA by May.

KASA would be established as the central administrative agency responsible for overseeing space policy, research and development, industry promotion, and international cooperation. In particular, KASA would focus on identifying collaborative projects in space exploration, space science and aerospace research in partnership with leading space agencies worldwide. Additionally, KASA would aim to support emerging nations in their efforts to develop space capabilities and foster economic cooperation and mutual growth.

To improve the overall coordination and leadership in matters related to space, we have taken multiple steps. We have elevated the chair of our National Space Committee from the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic of Korea. We have also expanded the number of members on the Committee to ensure comprehensive oversight. Moreover, in our updated Space Development Master Plan, we have included provisions related to space resource development and acquisition, astronomical phenomena research and observation and research of space environments.

In tandem with our commitment, we eagerly invest in space assets and exploration, fully recognizing their fundamental role in advancing humanity's shared prosperity. Our multifaceted efforts encompass a diverse array of projects, each playing a vital part of our nation's space initiatives. This includes the ongoing development of a lunar landing module, a milestone project that stands as a testament to President Yoon's visionary declaration to achieve a lunar landing by 2032. Additionally, we are actively engaged in enhancing the performance of Nuriho spacecraft and we are working on the development of the next-generation launch vehicle, KSLV-

### III.

I would like to briefly outline the Republic of Korea's comprehensive initiatives aimed at bolstering transparency and fostering trust in our space program. In March, we plan to invite the international observers from the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) member countries to visit NARO Space Center of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI). This observation will provide a great opportunity to enhance understanding of our space policy dedicated to peaceful purposes.

Moreover, the Republic of Korea hosted International Space Exploration Coordination Group Workshop and Senior Agency Management Meeting in 2023. Both events were pivotal in bringing together space agencies from around the world to share insights, align strategies, and strengthen international collaboration in space exploration. We are also honored to host COSPAR 2024, the Committee on Space Research, in July, further solidifying our commitment to global space exploration and research cooperation.

Madam Chair,

In light of an increasing number of actors engage in space endeavors, the ever-evolving landscape of the space industry, and our collective enthusiasm for exploring space resources, the significance of COPUOS as the premier global platform for ensuring space safety and sustainability has grown exponentially.

With our increasing involvement in space development and our steadfast dedication to fostering the peaceful and prosperous utilization of outer space, we stand committed to active engagement in this meeting, aiming to make meaningful contributions to the deliberations concerning peaceful use of outer space.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea looks forward to constructive discussion and fruitful outcomes.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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