

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 2024

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Agenda item 5: Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

First, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, for chairing this session of the Scientific and Technical Committee, and we extend our deep appreciation to all the staff of UNOOSA and its director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini for the excellent preparation of the committee meetings.

We welcome the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). This committee yet again stresses our collective commitment to advancing space scientific knowledge and promoting technological innovation for the progress and welfare of all humankind.

The United Arab Emirates has been giving high priority to developing its space program, showcasing a commitment to technological advancement and innovation.

With the aim of fueling innovation, driving technological breakthroughs, and ensuring the sustainable development of space technologies, the UAE Space Agency has established the Space Economic Zones. This initiative is designed to empower the private sector, providing the necessary infrastructure and an enabling environment to encourage the development of the national space industry, with the support of various strategic partners in the country, including R&D centers, and space operators.

Additionally, The Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt aims to foster the development of dedicated private enterprises in the fields of space science and technology. This mission will also involve the establishment of a deep space mission control center and the training of young talents, making a substantial contribution to the advancement and specialization of the country's endeavors in space exploration.

The UAE is devoted to promoting peaceful initiatives in the realm of the space sector by utilizing the potential of big data, data science, and space technologies. Our aim is to contribute to humanity by addressing sustainability challenges and devising practical solutions to overcome them. The UAE has unveiled notable initiatives such as the Space Data Center, a digital platform strategically crafted to provide access to space data for scientists, academia, public and private entities, start-ups, and community members.

Within the Space Data Center, the Geo-Spatial Analytics Platform aims to foster the development of space data applications and value-added services. These tools are designed to tackle both national and global challenges by providing computational and AI-based capabilities. Users will be empowered to analyze satellite imagery, and the platform will also serve as a marketplace for earth observation downstream applications and Analytics Reports. The availability of such a tool marks a significant milestone in developing our space infrastructure and establishing a framework to promote the growth of earth observation downstream applications.

The Space Analytics and Solutions (SAS) Program, an initiative within the Space Data Center, is dedicated to catalyzing the advancement of Earth observation downstream applications. This program has been instrumental in empowering the UAE space ecosystem to deliver space-based solutions addressing various challenges. These challenges encompass the monitoring of greenhouse gases, ensuring food security, and mitigating climate-induced disasters.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the UAE proudly stands as a contributor to the progress of scientific research, technological innovation, and knowledge dissemination. Our commitment extends to actively supporting global initiatives focused on ensuring the enduring sustainability of the space sector. Through the exploration of space science and the continuous advancement of space technologies, we aim to play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of space exploration and knowledge for the benefit of all.

Thank you, Madam Chair.