

**Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**The sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

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**item 14: 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.**

**Madam Chair,**

While all Earth orbits contain limited natural resources that should be equitably accessible to all, the geostationary orbit (GSO) stands out as a uniquely significant asset. The primary challenge to equitable access in the GSO is not the identification of a physical slot but rather the complexities of acquiring the necessary spectrum resources for operation. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regulates spectrum utilization to enhance equitable access to orbits.

Current regulations allocate many spectral and orbital resources on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Consequently, emerging space nations must coordinate their spectrum needs with pre-existing systems, primarily deployed by advanced spacefaring nations that historically had the technological and infrastructural advantage. Additionally, strict regulatory deadlines for frequency coordination and satellite deployment pose significant obstacles for developing countries seeking future access to these resources.

With the continuous addition of satellite systems—primarily by developed nations—equitable access to the GSO is becoming increasingly impractical. To address the challenges posed by the “first-come, first-served” principle, the ITU introduced the “Plan” approach, which reserves

portions of the GSO spectrum for future use by all nations. However, while this mechanism was forward-thinking at its inception, it does not sufficiently account for evolving technological and economic realities. The Plan is based on fixed technical parameters that, over time, become outdated and inefficient, failing to keep pace with advancements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has previously highlighted these challenges in CRP.26 to STSC 2021 and CRP.21 to LSC 2021. To address these issues, Iran proposed an innovative regulatory framework in the Legal Subcommittee, which extends beyond the GSO to other orbits. This initiative focuses on higher frequency bands that were previously excluded from the ITU Plan due to past technological constraints. As fewer satellites currently operate in these bands, establishing a new regulatory mechanism offers a viable path forward. Notably, a similar concept proposed by some countries in 2023 has gained attention within the ITU and is now under study under Agenda Item 1.6 of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27), expected to conclude in 2027.

In light of these considerations—and given that both the STSC and LSC have agenda items related to the GSO and equitable access—we propose that these subcommittees prioritize discussions on this issue. We believe it is important for these committees to explore ways to actively monitor, engage with, and contribute to efforts aimed at enhancing equitable access to orbital and spectrum resources, including by considering various initiatives such as the potential establishment of a dedicated working group.

**Thank you.**