

*Check against delivery*

**Statement by the Pakistan Delegation at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS);**

**03 - 14 February 2025, Vienna, Austria**

**Agenda Item No. 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.**

**Thank you Chair**

Pakistan believes that the Geostationary Orbit (GSO) is a limited natural resource which must be available to all Member States of United Nations (UN) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on equitable basis irrespective of their technical capacities and its use must be governed by Article 44 of the ITU constitution and Outer Space Treaty of the United Nations.

Pakistan has two in-orbit GSO satellites; Paksat-1R at 38°E and Paksat-MM1 at 38.2°E. The Paksat-1R satellite provides telecommunication services in C and Ku bands. The Paksat-MM1 satellite was launched on 30 May 2024. It is a multi-mission communication satellite comprising of I-, C-, Ku- and Ka-band payloads. It will allow millions of Pakistani citizens to have access to advance telecommunications services.

The equitable access to spectrum and orbital resources at Geostationary Orbit has several regulatory challenges at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) platform. Current regulations do not permit unbiased distribution of these natural resources to all the nations of the world. It is a big challenge for new entrants in the commercial space industry to get an honest share. There are several reasons:-

- a. The planned band regime was developed when satellite technology was not mature as it is today. It has certain technological limitations making it difficult to materialize.

- b. The unplanned band regime is based on a first come first serve basis which is not in favor of new space entities that are already late in filing their applications to ITU.
- c. Certain provisions of ITU-Radio Regulations (especially No. 11.49) have developed a monopoly of active space entities for decades.
- d. With the introduction of Mega LEO constellations, the protection of GSO satellites from harmful interference is severely undermined because of certain inefficiencies in the method to check the compliance of these Mega LEO constellations with the limits to protect the GSO satellites from harmful interference.

Lastly, we consider that in order to ensure sustainability of the optimum utilization of geostationary orbit, it is necessary to uphold this issue on the agenda of the Subcommittee. Applications of developing countries including Pakistan, which lost their rights at ITU regarding GSO due to delays caused by pandemic, should be accepted (as-force majeure) for development for ICT sector. The Subcommittee may also consider the revision of this agenda for inclusion of other satellite orbits (LEO, HEO, MLO) for sustainability of the optimum utilization of orbit and spectrum resources through the technical studies by ITU, creation of appropriate working groups and intergovernmental panels, as necessary.

I thank you.

----- **End of Statement** -----