

Czech Republic, Item 4

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your effective chairmanship and the Secretariat for all their hard work and efforts.

At the outset, I want to emphasize the importance of international cooperation and collaboration to minimize the risks associated with increased activity in outer space while maximizing the benefits of space for all.

As the number of satellites especially in Low Earth Orbit increases significantly each year, we stress the need for a global approach to coordinated space traffic management, which we believe should be overseen under the umbrella of the United Nations.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement made by the EU on behalf of its Member States. We would like to reiterate our strong support for the international order based on international law with the United Nations at its core, and a multilateral approach to international affairs, including issues related to outer space.

The Czech Republic strongly condemns the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and other illegal actions that violate multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, as well as the DPRK's illegal actions in violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolution.

Madam chair, distinguished delegates,

In the realm of space endeavors, the Czech Republic has a solid foundation to build upon, whether we consider the Magion satellite series, involvement in numerous scientific experiments or participation in space missions. Over the past three decades, space activities have increasingly become commercialized, and this trend persists today. The Czech Republic's accession to the ESA more than 15 years ago has unlocked new possibilities and opportunities for us.

The main interests of the Czech Republic's space activities lie in the fields of Earth Observation, Navigation, Telecommunications, Launchers, Space Science and Exploration and Space Safety. Our memberships in the European Space Agency and the European Union remain the main pillars of the development of our space activities and participation in space projects.

Speaking about the space project it is also worth mentioning a new national project "Czech Journey to Space."

This project aims not only to launch the first Czech astronaut to the International Space Station but also to leverage space activities for socio-economic benefits. The project focuses on fostering innovation, enhancing educational opportunities, and inspiring future generations. Through collaborative efforts in research, technology development, and outreach initiatives, "Czech Journey to Space" seeks to ignite public interest in space exploration, cultivate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills among youth, and drive economic growth in related sectors. Last but not least, this initiative aims to position the Czech Republic as a significant player in the global space community.

Madam chair, distinguished delegates,

Finally, I would like to emphasize the socio-economic benefits of space activities in our daily lives. We often forget how space activities make our lives easier and safer thanks to services such as long-distance calling, data transmission, and satellite navigation. Additionally, precise timekeeping and satellite imagery are essential for monitoring our land and atmosphere, serving as the foundation for security, crisis management and many applications.

Madam chair,

In conclusion, I want to assure you that the Czech Republic remains committed to international cooperation in outer space at all levels. We would also like to reiterate our strong support for the work and mission of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees.

Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your kind attention.