General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair and distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, the Indian delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the Chair on leading the 61st Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assures full cooperation and support to ensure the success of the current session. Indian delegation continues to support United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs and its endeavours to fulfil the vision of UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Madam Chair,

To commemorate the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on lunar south pole, the entire nation celebrated its maiden National Space Day on August 23, 2024. On the same day, the Chandrayaan-3 science data was released to the public. Similarly, the maiden set of scientific data from the country's first dedicated Solar Observatory Aditya L1 was released to the global scientific community on January 6, 2025. These data can be accessed through the Indian Space Science Data Center portal of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Madam Chair,

India also achieved several significant milestones in the space sector during this year. We are pleased to share some of these milestones with this esteemed committee.

Two major satellites were launched: INSAT-3DS, to enhance meteorological observations and monitor land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warnings. GSAT-N2, to meet broadband and in-flight connectivity needs, ensuring nationwide coverage, including remote regions.

In addition, several technology demonstration missions were successfully conducted. The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV-D3 mission showcased the repeatable flight performance of the SSLV vehicle systems, successfully placing the EOS-08 satellite into orbit. Proba-3 satellites, of the European Space Agency, was also launched onboard Indian launch vehicle.

India continues to implement the long-term sustainability guidelines in the best possible way. To quote an example, the PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission left practically zero debris in the orbit. After deploying the XPoSat satellite, the spent PSLV stage was utilized for further experiments before being deorbited to ensure re-entry into the north Pacific Ocean.

Madam Chair,

Another significant milestone for India was the successful Space Docking Experiment, SPADEX mission which demonstrated the rendezvous, docking, and undocking of two

small spacecraft in a low-Earth circular orbit. This mission marks a stepping stone towards the imminent Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's ambitious vision for its space exploration journey.

The Human Spaceflight ("Gaganyaan") programme has made significant progress. The preparatory activities for the first un-crewed Gaganyaan mission are underway and two of the Gaganyatris are being trained for a mission to International Space Station, a joint mission with NASA. They are also being trained for conducting microgravity experiments. Concurrently progress is being made in several areas such as successful completion of human rating of CE20 Cryogenic engine, signing of agreements for international collaboration, assembly of human rated LVM3 etc.

Madam Chair

Following sectoral reforms, India's space arena is experiencing rapid growth of startups and private firms. India is fostering a vibrant private space ecosystem by extending technical support and expertise. Notable examples of Non-Governmental Entities (NGE) participation include the suborbital mission Agnibaan SOrTeD by Agnikul Cosmos and the development of 10 payloads for PSLV-C60/SPADEX (POEM-4) mission.

As part of capacity building, India conducted dedicated training program on the application of space science and technology for the officials from Kenya and Nigeria and on small satellite development, for the engineers from Mauritius. The UN affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific hosted by India continued its capacity building efforts by providing courses and other educational programmes, especially benefiting the participants from developing countries.

Madam Chair,

COPUOS as the unique platform for promoting peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, has to adapt to the rapidly evolving outer space scenario and provide faster and effective solutions to the emerging challenges. The creation of Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) and the inclusion of agenda item on "Dark ad quite skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges" as the single issue/item for discussion in the STSC sessions from 2025 to 2029 are commendable initiatives. The Indian delegation will actively participate in the discussions under these agenda items.

The Indian delegation looks forward to a productive session and remains committed to contribute positively.