



AGENDA 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INTRODUCTION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES: KENYA

STATEMENT BY AMB. MAURICE MAKOLOO, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 3rd - TO 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

Madam Chair,

1. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your effective chairmanship and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.
2. I also take this opportunity to extend Kenya's appreciation to the efforts and work that has been undertaken by the Director of UNOOSA, Ms Aarthi Holla-Maini and the Secretariat in organizing this meeting and supporting the work of this Subcommittee, including the organization of the UN Space Sustainability Days last week. The discussions and exchanges held were invaluable in fostering a deeper understanding on Space Traffic Coordination particularly for many of us in Missions who are non experts on space matters.

Madam Chair,

3. Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the Group of 77 and China, and by the Africa Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.
4. Space-based technologies are increasingly playing a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development across the globe and driving progress toward achieving the sustainable development goals. While the benefits of integrating space technologies with sustainable development are clear, challenges such as space debris, data privacy, and the digital divide can hinder progress. Moreover, ensuring equitable access to space-derived data for developing countries is crucial for a balanced global approach to sustainability. International cooperation, robust regulatory frameworks, and investments in capacity-building are essential to overcome these challenges and fully harness the potential of space technologies to realizing a sustainable, equitable, and resilient world.



5. In this regard, Kenya remains committed to international cooperation for the peaceful and mutually beneficial use of outer space, and views the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee as a vital platform for exchanging ideas and best practices on space-related scientific and technical matters to support the safe, stable and sustainable use of outer space.
6. As an emerging spacefaring nation, Kenya greatly appreciates the vital role played by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space science and technology in developing countries, particularly through the “Access to Space for All” joint initiatives. Kenyan institutions have directly benefited from these efforts, participating in the Hypergravity/Microgravity Track, Satellite Development Track, and Space Exploration Track initiatives. These collaborative programs have been instrumental in enhancing our national capabilities in space systems engineering, satellite operations, and space science.
7. We therefore look forward to enhancing our collaboration with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and call for enhanced funding and support to empower UNOOSA to expand its programs, reach a broader audience, and facilitate even greater technological and scientific advancements in developing countries in particular. This is because we believe long term sustainability of outer space is better assured when no one is left behind.

Madam Chair

8. In Africa, regional cooperation in space activities is gaining significant momentum, providing the much-needed resources to implement innovative projects and develop robust space capabilities across the continent. Kenya is actively participating in the African Development Satellite initiative alongside Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, and Uganda as a joint collaborative effort to build capacity across the participating nations, leveraging on each nation’s strengths. This collaborative effort aims to build capacity in space systems engineering and space operations by developing a small Earth Observation satellite. By pooling expertise and resources, this initiative will not only strengthen the technical skills of participating nations but also enhance Africa's collective ability to harness space technology for sustainable development. We hope that this will catalyze similar collaborative initiatives in the region under the auspices of the African Space Agency.



Madam Chair

9. Kenya strongly supports the enhanced participation of women in space science, technology, and policy. In this regard, we are proud to have hosted the 5th edition of the Space4Women Expert Meeting, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27th to 29th November 2024 under the auspices of UNOOSA's Space4Women initiative. This landmark event, hosted in Africa for the first time, served as a platform to raise awareness among women—particularly those in the Global South on the opportunities available in STEM as well as space-related fields, and encourage their participation in developing innovative solutions to socioeconomic challenges using space technologies and space-enabled technologies. It also provided a foundation for empowering women in space science, research, and leadership roles worldwide.

Madam Chair

10. In ensuring that outer space remains safe and usable for all countries, Kenya notes with deep concern the dramatic increase in space debris, which is becoming an ever more serious threat to human safety and global security. The recent incident, in which a half-ton separation ring from the upper stage of a launch rocket fell into Kenya, underscores the urgent need for enhanced international collaboration on space debris mitigation and space situational awareness, and the need for actors responsible for creating the debris to play an active role in clearing and cleaning activities. Needless to say, had this debris impacted a populated area, the results could have been catastrophic, endangering lives and property.

Madam Chair

11. As I conclude, I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development.

I Thank you.