

## **State of Kuwait**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Sixty-second Session

Vienna, 3 February – 14 February 2025

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Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to join you today to address the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixty-second session.

Let me begin by extending our appreciation to you, Chair, for your efficient leadership. We are confident that under your able chairmanship, we will make important strides. We assure you of our full cooperation and support.

We also extend our gratitude to the Director and the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their exceptional work, which has made this session possible.

Chair,

As this marks the first participation of an official delegation from the Kuwait National Space Research Center (Kuwait-NSRC) in a COPUOS meeting, we would like to begin by providing an overview of the State of Kuwait's space journey.

### **Kuwait's Journey in Space**

Kuwait has been an active participant in international space initiatives since 1963, beginning with its involvement in the ITU Administrative Conference. It joined INTELSAT in 1965 and established its first satellite communication station, Umm Al-Aish, in 1969. Kuwait has consistently demonstrated its commitment to international space agreements, signing the Outer Space Treaty and related conventions in the 1970s and later joining the UN Moon Treaty and the Registration Convention in 2014. In 2021, Kuwait became a member of COPUOS, reinforcing its role in space governance.

Kuwait has developed its capabilities in satellite remote sensing research to monitor and study geology, environment, oil spill detection, coastal and marine studies, climate, land subsidence, sand storms, desertification, soil moisture and water resources. Since the 1980s, these studies have been conducted by academic and research institutions, such as Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), and have been published in scientific journals.

Moreover, Kuwait has made significant advancements in Space Weather research, establishing a Muon Detector Observatory at Kuwait University as part of the Global Muon Detector Network (GMDN) in 2006. That same year, Kuwait University installed a Sun photometer as part of NASA's Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) to support atmospheric studies.

## **Space Education**

Regarding space education programs, Kuwait University has been offering a B.Sc. degree in Engineering Physics (Remote Sensing) since 2003, with options for both major and minor tracks. The program covers a diverse range of courses, including visible and infrared (IR) remote sensing, microwave remote sensing, radar signal processing, space physics, satellite meteorology, and climate physics. This curriculum is designed to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and skills in the physics of satellite remote sensing and its applications across various scientific and technological fields.

## **KuwaitSat-1 and Space Capacity Building Programs**

In 2019, Kuwait launched the Cubesat Capacity Building Project, an initiative led by Kuwait University and funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The project's primary goal was to develop technical expertise by training young professionals in the design, assembly, integration, and testing of nanosatellites.

This initiative reached a historic milestone in January 2023 with the launch of KuwaitSat-1, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Kuwait's space activities. Equipped with an RGB camera offering a 39-meter resolution, KuwaitSat-1 underscores Kuwait's commitment to advancing its space capabilities and fostering innovation in satellite technology.

## **Kuwait National Space Research Center (Kuwait-NSRC)**

Building on this momentum, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait—and Chairman of the Board of Directors of KFAS—announced the establishment of the Kuwait National Space Research Center (Kuwait-NSRC) in September 2024. The center aims to strengthen Kuwait's contributions to space science and technology, aligning with the rapidly evolving global space sector.

Kuwait-NSRC is set to become a hub of innovation and research excellence—a pioneering institution dedicated to making impactful contributions to the global space industry and space economy. It also aims to create investment opportunities that drive economic growth and promote sustainable development.

Thank you.

