

## **Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of Views**

### **Republic of Korea**

#### **UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Sixty-second Session February 3, 2025**

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Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you Chair and the Director of UNOOSA for convening and organizing this session of the UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. My delegation would also like to extend its deepest condolences to the Polish delegation on the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal.

At the outset, the Republic of Korea expresses its grave concern over North Korea's declaration in December 2023 to launch additional military reconnaissance satellites. We strongly condemn North Korea's launch of military reconnaissance satellite, which constitutes a flagrant violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions that prohibit any launch using ballistic missile technology by North Korea.

Chair,

We find ourselves in an era where space exploration and technology

have transitioned from mere aspirations to tangible realities that impact every aspect of our lives. Space technologies are essential tools for addressing global challenges, such as climate change, disaster management, and connectivity in underserved regions. For this reason, our collective efforts to preserve outer space for peaceful purposes should continue.

The Republic of Korea, as a responsible space-faring nation, remains steadfast in its commitment to the constructive and peaceful use of outer space. In 2024, the Republic of Korea marked significant milestones in advancing its space program and capabilities. Following the establishment of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) in May, we successfully hosted our inaugural National Space Committee meeting, and launched comprehensive initiatives to enhance satellite programs, Lunar and Mars exploration, and space transportation technologies. Later in October, we adopted the 3rd Satellite Information Utilization Plan, which established a solid foundation for leveraging satellite data in domestic and international disaster and emergency response efforts.

In addition, the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI) achieved a key milestones with the successful launch of the CODEX (COronal Diagnostic EXperiment) mission, developed in collaboration with the NASA. As a solar observatory designed to research Sun's corona, we believe that CODEX would play a critical role in advancing our understanding of solar activity and its impact on Earth's space weather environment.

Furthermore, we hosted the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) 2024 in July. This event successfully brought more than 3,000 space scientists and policy makers from around the world to address pressing issues in space science and policy. The event not only highlighted our continued commitment to the global space community but also strengthened stronger international partnerships among space agencies.

The Republic of Korea will continue to strive for the peaceful use of outer space this year, aligning our efforts with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the benefit of all humanity.

Looking ahead, we are honored to host the UN International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) Annual Meeting later this year. This esteemed gathering will serve as a vital platform to discuss critical applications of satellite navigation for sustainable development, share advancements in the Korean Positioning System (KPS), and collaborate on ensuring that GNSS technologies are accessible and beneficial to all humanity. Hosting ICG meeting reflects our commitment to advancing space science and making the benefits of space technology accessible worldwide.

Furthermore, later this month, we will launch SPHEREx Observatory in collaboration with NASA. The SPHEREx mission will conduct the first

all-sky spectral survey, collecting data on more than 250 million galaxies to explore the origins of the universe. This pioneering mission exemplifies our dedication to advancing space science and contributing to humanity's understanding of space.

Chair,

As the number of actors engaging in space activities continues to grow, and as the space industry evolves, the importance of COPUOS as a global platform for ensuring space safety and sustainability has never been greater.

With our increasing involvement in space development and our unwavering commitment to fostering the peaceful use of outer space, the Republic of Korea stands ready to actively engage in this meeting. We aim contribute meaningfully to the discussions, and deliberations that will shape the future of outer space.

We look forward to constructive dialogue and fruitful outcomes.

Thank you.

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