

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

(Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of views)

**62nd SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (STSC)
OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(COPUOS)
(3-14 February 2025, Vienna)**

Mme. Chair,

At the outset, please allow me to express our deepest gratitude to you, as well as to the Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini and her dedicated team, for the excellent preparation of this session; and also welcome the two new members of COPUOS, namely Djibouti and Latvia, as well as the newly elected co-chairs of ATLAC from Pakistan and Romania. We would also like to convey our deepest condolences to the delegation of Poland for the unfortunate demise of Mr. Andrzej Misztal, the Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.

Distinguished Chair and Delegates,

The growth in space activities has increased the importance of COPUOS and its Sub-Committees, in regulating and managing these activities, as well as the crucial role of the UNOOSA in executing space-related programs.

Türkiye, as one of the few countries which ratified all the five UN treaties on outer space, including the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, believes that these treaties constitute the cornerstone of international law on outer space.

Türkiye is also of the view that COPUOS and its Sub-Committees are the main platforms for the discussions on peaceful use of outer space and development of international law in this field.

Türkiye welcomes the adoption of the Pact for the Future, which recognized among others the need for urgent action to ensure safe and sustainable use of space for the benefit of all humankind. As the Pact encouraged COPUOS to further consult on the proposal to hold UNISPACE IV, in 2027, we would like to underscore the importance of addressing key priorities, including the establishment of coordination mechanisms for ensuring space sustainability, the broader utilization of space solutions like the use of space data, technologies and applications to achieve the SDGs, and the enhancement of international cooperation for the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. Furthermore, we support discussions on long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris mitigation, space traffic management and the efforts for cooperation on space resources and sustainable lunar activities.

Distinguished Delegates,

With the leadership of the Turkish Space Agency, Türkiye has been significantly expanding its space activities in recent years, under its National Space Program.

Under the Turkish Astronaut and Science Mission Program;

- As a landmark achievement, our first Turkish Astronaut, Alper GEZERA VCI, conducted 13 critical scientific experiments during a 14-day mission at the International Space Station in the beginning of 2024. To commemorate this historic mission, a documentary titled “Beyond the Horizon” premiered in January, 2025, showcasing “behind-the-scenes” efforts.
- Our second Astronaut, Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER, completed a suborbital flight in June, 2024, also conducting 7 scientific experiments which will absolutely inspire future generations and elevate awareness of space activities in Türkiye.

Moreover;

- The first equipment to be used in the spacecraft that we developed for our first moon mission, was produced in 2024.
- The vibration as well as the thermal and vacuum environmental tests of the S-band antennas, designed for our moon mission, were also successfully completed in 2024.
- Under the APSCO Project, in 2024, Türkiye contributed to the groundbreaking research by sending plants to the space with the Shijian-19 satellite to develop varieties, resistant to disease and environmental stress.
- In August 2024, the second “Space Explorers Academy” was organized in collaboration with the Turkish Space Agency and the Organization of Turkic States, in Bursa, aimed at fostering interest in space sciences among youth from Turkic States. Approximately 100 students from 4 countries participated in this inspiring initiative.
- Also, in April 2024, the Space Technology Conference (STC 2024) was hosted in Ankara by the Turkish Space Agency, bringing together member states of the Organization of Turkic States to discuss cooperation and innovative advancements in space technologies.
- At the 75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), held in Milan in October 2024, Türkiye’s leading institutions and firms working in the fields of space and defense technologies, showcased Türkiye’s projects in this area, and introduced Türkiye’s Space Programme and the upcoming IAC 2026, which will be hosted in Antalya, Türkiye.

Additionally;

- Türkiye’s first domestically produced communication satellite, Türksat 6A, reached its orbital slot in July 2024. As the largest R&D project in our country, Türksat 6A will commence operations in the first quarter of 2025, marking a significant milestone in our space capabilities.

- Türkiye's emerging space ecosystem continued to develop also in 2025. One of our pioneering space companies, Fergani-Uzay, successfully launched Türkiye's biggest satellite produced by a private company, namely FGN-100-d1 into the orbit in January, developed entirely in-house. Similarly, Plan-S has successfully launched 9 satellites to date, delivering innovative solutions in communication technologies.

Distinguished Delegates,

In an effort to foster interest in aerospace among young generations, Türkiye organizes TEKNOFEST, the world's largest aerospace and technology festival every year. Organized under the leadership of the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Technology Team Foundation, with contributions from Türkiye's leading technology companies, public institutions, media organizations, and universities, the TEKNOFEST will take place in İstanbul this year, and will feature 51 different technology competitions, including the ones on "Model Satellite" and "Artificial Intelligence in Aerospace". Applications for the TEKNOFEST 2025 Technology Competitions will remain open until 20th of February 2025.

Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, we would like to reaffirm Türkiye's commitment to international cooperation in all aspects of the space sector, from regulatory frameworks to technical operations.

We stand ready to work collectively with Member States to address shared challenges and ensure that outer space remains a domain of peace, innovation and opportunity for all humankind.

We firmly believe that challenges surrounding space activities can only be addressed collaboratively by Member States, with COPUOS playing the leading role.

Thank you.