Item 4- General Exchange of Views
Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
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Distinguished Chair,

COPUS and its subcommittees remain a unique opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to leveraging space technology for the benefit of humanity, ensuring that space remains a domain of peace, innovation, and shared progress. The **Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC)** plays a vital role in promoting the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and fostering collaboration among member states.

While the entire STSC agenda is of critical importance, in the interest of time, I will focus on key issues that are most relevant to the peaceful use and sustainable development of outer space.

First, We emphasize the importance of enhancing the **long-term sustainability (LTS) of space activities** to ensure safe and equitable access to outer space for present and future generations. The successful implementation of sustainability principles requires a common understanding of their guiding framework, shaped by experiences gained through voluntary application. Therefore, states must be given adequate time to implement these principles, assess their challenges and opportunities, and work towards a shared vision.

We stress the significance of international cooperation and capacity-building efforts in promoting space sustainability through knowledge-sharing, best practices, and technological advancements. In this regard, we commend the efforts of the relevant working group, under the capable chairmanship of Mr. [Name], in addressing these challenges. However, we caution against prematurely developing new principles before thoroughly discussing the existing ones.

We support the establishment of a new working group to build upon the achievements of the current LTS working group, ensuring a comprehensive and well-informed approach. Furthermore, the scope and focus of this new working group should not be predefined but rather determined collaboratively by its members. We will present our detailed views on this agenda item during the discussions.

Addressing Space Debris

Second, the growing accumulation of space debris is an issue of critical concern. Current estimates indicate that over 34,000 objects larger than 10 centimeters are orbiting the Earth, posing significant risks to operational satellites. If this trend continues, parts of low-Earth orbit may become unusable within the next one to two decades. Some projections suggest that space debris is doubling every **ten years**.

While mitigating and addressing space debris must be a collective effort, it is undeniable that a few nations have contributed to the vast majority of this debris. These states must bear primary responsibility and take proactive measures to enhance international cooperation by sharing scientific and operational expertise, data, and relevant technologies. Collaboration is essential, particularly with developing countries, to ensure that all space actors can contribute to debris mitigation and removal. In this regard, the **STSC** has an important role to play in examining the scientific and technical aspects of this issue and facilitating meaningful dialogue.

Third, the rapid deployment of **large satellite constellations** necessitates an urgent examination of their technical and scientific implications. Considering the legal, policy, and technical challenges that these constellations can pose to the sovereignty of states, we emphasize that any assessments of such constellations must be based on respect for state sovereignty. The deployment of satellite constellations must be subject to authorization and

consent from the states over whose territories they operate. In this regard, we reaffirm our sovereign right to approve any satellite constellation operating over our territory and reserve the right to take appropriate steps in addressing the issue of any unauthorized satellite constellation operation over the Islamic Republic of Iran. (Reference to Iran's CRP on this matter.)

Fourth, I would now like to present a brief update on **Iran's key space activities** since the previous STSC session:

- The **Chamran-1 small satellite** was successfully placed in a 550 km orbit by the Qaem-100 launch vehicle, marking a milestone in Iran's space industry by enabling precise and repeated orbital maneuvers for the first time.
- In addition to deploying a CubeSat, the Simorgh launch vehicle was used to demonstrate the Saman-1 orbital transfer stage (upper stage).
- For the first time, a private Iranian company successfully launched two indigenous CubeSats, Hodhod and Kowsar, into sun-synchronous orbit through international cooperation, marking a significant step towards private sector involvement in Iran's space industry.

Fifth, given that this committee focuses on **scientific and technical** matters, it is important to address the impact of **unilateral coercive measures** purely from this perspective. In an ecosystem with **limited actors**, any **progress or regression** in a space program inevitably affects the **global space community**. The consequences of these UCM extend beyond individual nations and have broader implications. For example UCM Increased risks of space collisions due to the inability to access precise and up-to-date space situational awareness (SSA) data and limited orbital maneuvering capabilities, potentially worsening the problem of space debris.

Before concluding my statement, I must address the **misuse of satellite and outer space facilities** in military operations against the people of Gaza which was a matter of **grave concern**, resulting in unprecedented destruction and loss of civilian life. Residential areas, schools, hospitals, and essential infrastructure have been **reduced to rubble**, leaving thousands displaced, injured, or killed.

Furthermore, the **role of foreign assistance in enabling this devastation cannot be overlooked**. The provision of satellite and space-based technologies by certain nations has facilitated indiscriminate military actions, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The **principles of international law and the Outer Space Treaty** must be upheld, ensuring that space technologies serve **peaceful purposes and the advancement of humanity**, rather than being weaponized against innocent lives.

Conclusion

In closing, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** reaffirms its **commitment to international cooperation** in the peaceful use and sustainable development of outer space. We urge the global community to uphold the **principles of fairness, inclusivity, and non-discrimination** in space governance, ensuring that space remains a **shared resource for the benefit of all humankind**.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.