

## **Agenda Item 5: Space Debris**

### **Republic of Korea**

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

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Thank you, Chair.

Currently, there are approximately 30,000 artificial objects orbiting the Earth, with about 35% being operational satellites. The rapid growth of space activities, such as space internet and exploration, has led to an increasing number of space objects. This rise has amplified concerns about space environment, space debris management, and space traffic management. The risks of satellite collisions and uncontrolled deorbiting are growing, making the enhanced space situational awareness critical.

Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea has been actively working to address these challenges. Since establishing its first Basic Plan for Preparation Against Space Hazards in 2014, we have developed a foundation of space monitoring infrastructure and response system over the past decade. Building on these efforts, Korea launched the Second Basic Plan for Preparation Against Space Hazards (2024–2033) to guide our space risk management strategy for the next ten years.

This new plan focuses on three key areas: First, advancing space monitoring technology and achieving global-level space surveillance capabilities through international cooperation. Second, establishing a proactive space risk response system by expanding the scope of space monitoring. Third, promoting the space industry through data-sharing policies and fostering private sector utilization of space surveillance data.

As part of this plan, the Republic of Korea is developing KEPLER (Korea Enhanced Platform for Lowering Space Risk), which collects and analyzes data on space objects to assess collision and deorbiting risks. KEPLER also serves as a platform for international cooperation in space situational awareness and risk analysis, supporting global efforts to mitigate space hazards.

To enhance space safety, we are actively engaging in international discussions on space traffic management and working to establish a national response system. Additionally, we aim to foster a private market for space debris mitigation technologies and services, contributing to the industrialization of space risk management.

The Republic of Korea also participates in the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) to advance research on space debris and promote the preservation of the orbital environment. For the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of space activities, we are committed to sharing data and exchanging information with international SSA service providers and operators, contributing to safer and more sustainable space operations.

Through a proactive and systematic approach, the Republic of Korea is dedicated to addressing space debris and risk mitigation through policy development, technological innovation, international cooperation, and industrial growth.

Thank you Chair.

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