



STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF UNISPACE + 50 ON THE OCCASION OF THE 61ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, VIENNA 20TH JUNE 2018, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. ABDULRAZZAQ ABDULJALEEL ESSA ALHAJESSA, MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF IRAQ

Your Excellencies, Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the onset, allow me on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to congratulate Ms. Rosa Maria Ramirez from Mexico on her election as Chairperson of the 61st Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which coincides with this special segment of the fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space otherwise known as UNISPACE + 50 and to assure her of our full support and cooperation for a successful conclusion of this historic event.
2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank H.E. President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen for declaring the UNISPACE + 50 open and also notes with appreciation his opening remarks.
3. The Group would also like to express its appreciation to the Director-General of UNOV, the Director of UNOOSA for their statements and extend same to the secretariat for the briefings and making documents available for delegations.
4. The Group of 77 and China is of the view that UNISPACE +50 like other preceding UNISPACE before it will avail all nations, particularly developing countries the opportunity to put forth their interests in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. It is therefore pertinent to state that, the accessibility and use of outer space, as a province of all humankind, should be on equitable basis amongst states and irrespective of the level of their economic and scientific advancement.
5. The Group acknowledges the importance of the principles included, inter alia, in the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (OST), aimed at the peaceful exploitation and exploration of Space for the benefit of all countries and the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploitation and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, which should be the foundation and basis for further improvement of the space governance.
6. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to call on all Member States of the UN to support a regime of peaceful uses of outer space through international cooperation in conformity with applicable international law and to achieve sustainable development and the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.
7. In view of the foregoing, the Group would like to call on all UN Member States and all relevant stakeholders to work assiduously towards realizing a shared vision for the future in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space which should be our prime objective when mapping out the envisaged “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan.
8. In line with the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE + 50, the Group of 77 and China call on Member States to:
 - Strengthen international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space activities through space, science, and their applications;
 - Strengthen the role of COPUOS as the ideal platform for promotion of international cooperation for

technical assistance to developing countries in space related activities;

- Strengthen the implementation of the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the enhancement of the regional centres for space science and technology, affiliated to the United Nations, particularly for developing countries;
- Emphasize the need to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination among Member States at all levels in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, to integrate space cooperation with the economic and development cooperation;
- Reaffirm the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the prime intergovernmental platform for the discussion of issues affecting outer space activities, the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, to this end, emphasizes the importance of strengthening the roles of the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;
- Bridge the technological space divide between the developing and developed countries;
- Set the course for all economies towards the path of achieving global initiatives including: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

9. It is also pertinent to mention that in order to meet the objectives of these thematic priorities, adequate resources should be at the disposal of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) which has provided a pillar of support to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. In this regard, the Group calls for more funding of the Office to enable it live up to its responsibilities and deliver on its mandate set by the Committee.

10. The Group would like to once again call for further improvement in the availability of remote sensing data, including those of high resolution. There is no doubt that remote sensing has valuable applications of particular relevance for developing countries. These include weather forecasting, soil monitoring for agricultural purposes and controlling droughts to guarantee food security; assessment of water sources, especially potable water sources; applications in disease control and health services to be mention but a few.

I thank you, Madam Chair.