



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Third Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
2-13 February 2026,
delivered by H.E. Shambhu S. Kumaran,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of India**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Thank you, Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania, for her dedication and successful tenure as Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and also congratulate Mr. Pakorn Apaphant, Executive Director of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency of Thailand, for chairing the 63rd STSC Session. It is great to see one of the G-77 members at the helm of this Committee, and he can be assured of our full support.
2. The Group also extends its appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for their support in convening this meeting.
3. The Group appreciates the increasing awareness of the potential, importance and impact that space activities have today and, in this regard, welcomes Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Honduras, Maldives, Malta and Zimbabwe as new Members of the Committee.
4. Considering the time constraints, the following G-77 and China remarks should be considered applicable to all agenda items and working groups and we request the Secretariat to reflect the Group positions under the relevant agenda items in the final report of this session.

Chair,

5. The Group emphasizes the role of COPUOS and its two Subcommittees, as the main UN forum, in promoting international cooperation on the exploration, exploitation and peaceful uses of outer space. The Group recognizes the potential impacts of the liquidity crisis in the UN system on the UNOOSA and the delivery of mandates. In this regard, the Group looks forward to engaging with the Secretariat in order to consider options that make more efficient use of time and agenda items of the Committee and its Sub-committees, as appropriate. However, the Group underscores the importance of ensuring that all official meetings of the Committee and its Subcommittees are made available via Web-TV and supported by all official languages. The Group further reiterates that any scenario to address the liquidity crisis must not affect the financial allocations as well as the delivery of programmes benefiting developing countries, particularly in view of the limited resources allocated, and encourages the secretariat to further its efforts to mobilize more funds for these programmes from traditional as well as non-traditional partners.
6. The Group supports measures to enhance international cooperation and promote inclusivity and gender equality or balance, as applicable, in the space sector to ensure the benefits of space activities are available to all nations. The Group reaffirms the importance of

the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and therefore the Group views that on-going and future space activities should contribute to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.

7. The Group wishes to reiterate the established principles related to outer space activities, including the principle of exploration and use of outer space on the basis of equality and non-discrimination and benefit-sharing in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Chair,

8. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or unfairly disadvantaged by exploration, exploitation and peaceful uses of outer space. The Group believes that in order to achieve the main objectives of this Subcommittee, it is important to concentrate our work on enhancing the framework of international cooperation including through building and promotion of the technological capacities, transfer of technology and equipment favourable for developing countries, lessons learned, best practices, bridging the digital divide, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and scientific technological research in developing countries, in order to deliver benefits to the whole of humankind by working together through enhanced cooperation and collaboration.

9. The Group also urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and related actions contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations, which hamper or impede access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries. All outer space activities, including mega constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, international law and the principle of non-intervention.

10. The Group further underlines that space technologies and applications should be used to promote the peaceful use of outer space and to support societal development, and should be developed and applied in conformity with international law and the UN Charter.

11. The Group also attaches great importance to reaching consensus on the reports of the Committee and its Sub-Committees in order to make progress on issues related to the peaceful uses of outer space conducive to our collective advantage, thus avoiding politicization and prolongation of discussions that exceed the mandate of COPUOS.

12. The Group strongly believes that COPUOS must remain the forum for enhancement of cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, the Group calls upon UNOOSA and the Member States for greater support to enhance North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation to facilitate transfer of technology and equipment among nations, make more opportunities available for greater scientific and academic linkages, long-term fellowships and further collaboration among national and regional laboratories, UN research centres, other national and international institutions on space matters and institutions in developing countries.

13. The Group reiterates its commitment to the “Space2030” Agenda for addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind. In this regard, the Group emphasizes, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries, to support their implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda. The Group takes note of the mid-term review of

“Space2030” Agenda and looks forward to a comprehensive and proactive review process to address current challenges and further consolidate aspirations of developing countries.

14. The Group welcomes the discussions of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) and looks forward to continuing its active participation in these discussions. The Groups further reiterates the need to further consolidate the interests of developing countries, including capacity building and exchange of information, within ATLAC, and its recommendations.

15. The Group welcomes consultations on the proposal to hold the United Nations Conference on Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027 and underscores that UNISPACE IV must be action-oriented and an opportunity to consolidate the interests of developing countries to ensure that the use and exploration of outer space is carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all countries, regardless of their degree of scientific and economic development and in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty and applicable international law. However, the Group reiterates that holding such events must not affect the financial allocations as well as the delivery of programmes benefiting developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

16. We have an adequate mechanism before us in COPUOS to address space related issues. We must emphasise that people worldwide count on the UN system to address global needs particularly those of developing countries. In a spirit of cooperation and consensus, it is the hope of the Group of 77 and China that we will be able to address these issues and to come up with solutions that will contribute to global prosperity through enhanced international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you.



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Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt**

AGENDA ITEM 5: SPACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

1. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, with the view to realizing a shared vision for the future, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.
2. The Group reiterates the principles included in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, that should govern activities in the space:
 - a. universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development;
 - b. the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind;
 - c. the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, by any means,
 - d. international cooperation in the development of space activities.
3. The Group further reiterates the need to use this opportunity to address current challenges and fully consolidate aspirations of developing countries on peaceful uses of outer space including strengthening international cooperation, availing equitable access and sharing the benefits of outer space activities for all humankind, particularly for the interest of developing countries, including through providing additional support for space sciences and applications.
4. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are starting to develop their own space programmes and policies. This fact is a recognition of the potential, importance and benefit of space activities. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or are unfairly treated in space exploration efforts. In this connection, it is imperative to intensify the efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived from outer space activities with a view to promoting the contribution of peaceful uses of outer space to socio-economic development.

5. In line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote a wider participation of developing countries through active and sustained assistance by advanced space faring nations and the Office of Outer Space Affairs free from conditionalities.

6. To this end, capacity building, technical assistance and transfer of technology are key factors in the expansion of the abilities of those working in the field, allowing them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations.

7. The Group is of the view that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology on favorable terms for developing countries, as well as associated capacity-building are of vital importance. In this vein, the Group strongly encourages States to strengthen international, multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including by addressing challenges and obstacles, in particular those that hinder such cooperation, particularly, in developing countries. The Group also encourages the Secretariat to further its efforts in this regard as per the General Assembly resolution 80/76.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group reiterates its commitment to the “Space2030” Agenda which is intended to be a “forward looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind^[2].” In this regard, the Group emphasizes, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries, to support their implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda.

9. The Group takes note of the mid-term review of “Space2030” Agenda and looks forward to a comprehensive and proactive review process. The Group also reiterates the need to use this opportunity to address current challenges and further consolidate aspirations of developing countries on peaceful uses of outer space including strengthening international cooperation, availing equal access and benefit sharing, providing additional support for space sciences and applications for developing countries.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

[2] A/RES/76/3 para. 6



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Agenda item 6: Space debris.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

1. The following statement on behalf of the G-77 and China also applies to the following items of our agenda:

- Agenda item 11: Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
- Agenda item 13: Space and global health.
- Agenda item 16: Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges.

Mr. Chair,

2. Regarding space debris, the Group is of the view that the issue of preventing and mitigating its creation is of utmost importance and should continue to be treated as a priority with the view to prevent collisions. The Group underscores the need for developing countries to have access to technologies, equipment and methodologies for the measurement, monitoring and characterization of space debris and other space objects and calls for increased cooperation in addressing space debris.

3. The Group takes note of the relevant non-legally binding and voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the LTS Guidelines, while emphasizing that implementation of the latter Guidelines would be in accordance with Member States' respective needs, conditions and capabilities, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their implementation.

4. Recalling the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of the voluntary Guidelines for the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) during the 62nd session of COPUOS, the Group reiterates the importance of preserving the delicate balance in reviewing and implementing these Guidelines and its workplan, through taking into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

5. The Group and its Member States remain committed to contribute constructively to the meetings of the LTS Working Group and its work ^[1] including through addressing issues such as Space Traffic, and Space debris that disproportionately affect developing countries.

6. The Group underscores that the deployment of mega constellations, if not carried out sustainably and equitably, may pose a risk of congestion of Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which would be a significant disadvantage in the use and exploration of space by developing countries. Therefore, the Group reiterates that the principle of equitable access to outer space, and in particular in the LEO, needs to be observed more than ever, and calls for practical and more effective measures to ensure its implementation and responsibility of all space actors as per Art. 6 of the Outer Space Treaty.

7. The Group also welcomes the establishment and the commencement of discussions of the Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness of the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The Group looks forward to the Expert Group's exchange of views, and sharing of space situational awareness data and expertise on issues of space safety and sustainability. The Group reiterates the importance of international cooperation on space situational awareness with a view to support capacity building for Member States, particularly developing countries, with emerging space programs or capabilities.

8. The Group encourages more efforts contributing towards space applications for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues, bearing in mind the resolution "Space and Global Health" adopted by the UN General Assembly in its 77th session.

9. The Group welcomes the agenda item related to Dark and Quiet Skies, Astronomy and Large Constellations, and looks forward to deliberations that would further enhance our understanding in addressing emerging issues and challenges including the impact of light pollution and electromagnetic/radio interferences and large constellations for science and the wellbeing of society.

Thank you Mr. Chair.