

Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at the

45th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Meeting

of the

Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

General Exchange of Views, Agenda item 4

13 February 2008

Vienna, Austria

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation I would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election as the chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and assure you of our fullest cooperation. My delegation also congratulates Mrs. Mazalan Othman on her appointment as the Director of UNOOSA.

My delegation's appreciation also goes to staff of UNOOSA for their efforts for the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran warmly welcomes the new members of COPUOS, Switzerland and Bolivia.

Mr. Chairman,

The outer space as the province of all mankind should be kept open to all States for peaceful purposes and to take advantage of potential benefits therein. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as always stated, strongly emphasizes on the exclusive peaceful use of outer space and believes that all benefits derived there from should be extended to all states without discrimination. In this context, an increased awareness about the likelihood of an arms race in outer space is also of utmost importance and requires constant efforts by all states. The Islamic Republic of Iran also emphasizes on the equitable and fair access of all states in particular developing states to geostationary orbit.

Iran gives a high priority to the international cooperation, particularly within the framework of COPUOS in developing its space programs. Iran as one of the first members of COPUOS has constantly endeavored to make a positive contribution to its activities.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran takes this opportunity to appreciate valuable efforts made by COPUOS for enhancing the international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space. Such efforts will come to desired results if fully backed by the international community to effectively respond to new challenges which mankind may face in demilitarization of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the space programs and activities in my country, Iran has made a remarkable advancement in space science and technology based on its own capability and indigenous knowledge. Now Iran is among the countries having capability to launch satellite into orbit. Iran gained considerable experiences of human resource training in the field of aerospace science and related knowledge that constitutes a solid base for further advancements.

Allow me to briefly refer to some other space related activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- The first Workshop on Space Law was hold in Tehran on 17 and 18 February 2007. Participants from Iran and abroad including the Chief of the Committee Services and Research Section of OOSA attended the workshop, which organized by the Iranian Space Agency (ISA).
- Iran played a primary role in initiating the plan for establishing Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) as a cooperative arrangement to promote peaceful uses of outer space in the region.
- In this context, I would also like to refer to an agreement with UNOOSA on establishing the Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Iran.
- For the time being the Islamic Republic of Iran owns three orbital points on 26, 34 and 47 degree east that have been registered by the International Telecommunication Union in the name of Zohreh Network 1, 2 and 3 in 1986.

The practical uses of space science and technology as an integrated part of development agenda have proven increasingly important. That is to say,

sustainable development without taking benefit from outer space advantages is impossible.

Taking into consideration the pivotal role of space science and technology, Iran has already started the institutionalization of the application of space science and technology in the country by establishing policy-making, planning and executive national bodies like Supreme Space Council and Iranian Space Agency.

In parallel to the efforts made at national level, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to develop regional and international cooperation in the field of space science and technology. In Asia, the cooperation within the framework of Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) is and an example that will help countries to make more advancement in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to agenda item 9, space –system based disaster management support under the acronym of UNSPIDER, Iran as a disaster prone country, which faces a particularly hazardous situation resulting from the various types of natural disasters, is fully supportive of this program.

The Islamic Republic of Iran based on its wide experience in dealing with full range of disaster management, stands ready to fully cooperate with OOSA in implementation of the platform program for the period of 2007-2009 and the work plan for the period of 2008-2009 as explained in document A/AC.105/894. My delegation will make further comments on this agenda item.

Thank you,