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Chair: Mr. Alhakbani (Saudi Arabia)

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In the absence of Mr. Kemaya, Sr. (Liberia), Mr. Alhakhani (Saudi Arabia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 53: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/73/20) (continued)

1. **Ms. Chan** (Canada) said that as the previous Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) during the pivotal 2016–2017 biennium, Canada was especially proud to have played a leadership role in the activities culminating, in 2018, in the resoundingly successful high-level segment of the Conference commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), and in the finalization of consensus long-term sustainability guidelines. Given the increasing complexity of the space agenda, the renewed commitment to human deep space exploration, and the global focus on the sustainability of Earth and space, it was timely for COPUOS to consider the future course of global space cooperation. Her delegation encouraged it, through its newly established Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda, to set itself a forward-looking programme of work. To be successful, that Committee would require the engagement of all relevant States, both established and emerging spacefaring nations, and the number of new applications for membership was heartening. While Canada was proud of its own richly developed space programme – most recently involving partnering in the International Space Station and in Mars exploration and the launching of its Radarsat Constellation Mission – it recognized that its future would require increased international cooperation and global space governance.
2. On that note, she commended the success of the outgoing Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in finalizing an agreed preamble and 21 consensus guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/L.366) to support the peaceful access to and use of space. That crucial establishment of non-binding, practicable norms had been an excellent exercise in space diplomacy and had helped build transparency and confidence among Member States. All Member States should now consider national implementation of the consensus guidelines to increase the safety and sustainability of space operations. While tackling global challenges to people, Earth and space, and pursuing their global, regional and national goals, it was also important for Member States to continue their cooperation in promoting space as a driver for sustainable development.
3. **Mr. Calderón de Flores** (El Salvador) said that the use of outer space represented an opportunity to strengthen technical and human capabilities and contribute to sustainable development, through measures to preserve outer space as a zone of peace and development; prevent its militarization; support international cooperation and the exchange of scientific information, advances, and knowledge allowing for orderly growth; and increase access by all countries to the benefits of the exploration and use of outer space. His Government reiterated its commitment to the principles and agreements governing activities of States in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, according to which their activities must be based on the four pillars of common use, equal use, peaceful purposes and international cooperation and solidarity.
4. As a very environmentally vulnerable country, El Salvador wished to participate more actively in the use of space science and technology in order to adapt to climate change and prevent, mitigate and eliminate its susceptibility to natural and human phenomena, particularly in the most vulnerable sectors such as water resources, agriculture, forestry and coastal habitats.
5. El Salvador supported the preparation of the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan, which would mark an important milestone for the international space community. The agenda should provide an opportunity to discuss and agree on measures to strengthen the role and renew the priorities of COPUOS, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs as well as an opportunity to further promote the benefits of the peaceful use of outer space for human development, at a moment when the increasingly complicated space agenda required the involvement of more actors. The benefits of space activities would contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.
6. It was imperative to strengthen the role of COPUOS in order to address issues related to the use of outer space, avoid any threat to its preservation, ensure its long-term sustainability, support development and promote international cooperation. One of the main goals of that Committee should be to promote the sustainability of outer space activities so as to ensure that future generations could also benefit from access to space. Having gained from the work of COPUOS a better understanding of the benefits of space technology for Earth-based activities, and how they could be applied to El Salvador’s development in specific sectors, his Government had set up an inter-institutional team composed of representatives of the various ministries to serve as a counterpart to COPUOS.

7. **Mr. Almanzlawiy** (Saudi Arabia) said that his Government had made great efforts to apply space science and technology to critical areas such as education, health care, water and natural resource management, urban planning, environmental monitoring, communications, and spacefaring. To help it in that endeavour, his Government had signed many agreements in the field of space technology with agencies in the United States of America, China, the Russian Federation, Germany, France and others, consistent with the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space.
8. Saudi Arabia had created a sustainable satellite technology programme, including training, technology transfer and the creation of advanced industrial infrastructure. Since 2000, it had succeeded in launching 13 satellites into low orbit as well as three communications, remote sensing and scientific satellites. In late 2018, a Saudi geostationary communications satellite would be launched, the outcome of a project providing advanced training in the area of satellite design, construction and testing. As an expression of its growing interest in deep space exploration, Saudi Arabia had participated with China in a rare joint mission to explore and collect scientific data from the dark side of the Moon.
9. The technologies used in space and Earth sciences were rapidly developing during the digital age. Accordingly, his Government had established the Center of Excellence for Earth and Space Science in collaboration with the California Institute of Technology, to conduct research in the development of satellite technologies and the application of space data to the study of aquifers, flood-prone areas, changes in sand dunes and deformations in the Earth's crust, with the aim of preventing natural disasters and protecting the country's natural resources. The unique and ambitious Center would help usher in the future of Earth and space research in Saudi Arabia, which in turn would contribute to national development plans.
10. Space science and technology would help address challenges to sustainable global development, but States needed greater capacities in order for all to benefit. Therefore, Saudi Arabia was building bridges of cooperation with countries that shared its interest in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, non-discriminatory access to outer space and the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, with the end goals of strengthening international understanding, improving living conditions, and achieving peace on Earth. Saudi Arabia remained committed to respecting and expanding the United Nations legal framework for preserving the peaceful use of outer space.
11. **Ms. Oku** (Japan) said that over the previous half century, the world had witnessed tremendous scientific, economic and societal benefits from space exploration and use that would not have been possible without international cooperation, and her Government recognized the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a driver of that cooperation. In 2016, COPUOS had endorsed the seven UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, and Japan had cooperated closely with the international community to achieve them. Specifically regarding Thematic Priority 1, Global partnership in space exploration and innovation, Japan had in March 2018 hosted the ministerial-level Second International Space Exploration Forum, which had produced a set of principles and other outcome documents that would serve as bases for Governments to engage in dialogue on beneficial long-term space exploration endeavours.
12. Japan had worked closely with the United Nations to further capacity-building in the exploration and use of space. One example was its offer of the opportunity for educational or research institutions from States with emerging space programmes to deploy cube satellites from the Japanese Experiment Module (KiboCUBE) on the International Space Station, under the aegis of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. So far, institutions from Kenya, Guatemala, Mauritius and Indonesia had been selected, with Kenya having launched its satellite, and applications for the fourth round were open. Another instance had been Japan's hosting of the 12th meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) in 2017. Japan was working to improve compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems. Its own such system provided improved positioning availability in urban canyons and mountainous areas, and had been used to launch and operate a constellation of four satellites.
13. Japan was also actively engaged in regional cooperation to expand the peaceful uses of outer space, and to help emerging space actors to develop space capabilities. Every year Japan co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the largest space-related conference, which promoted space activities and greater socioeconomic benefits derived from space. In the 2017 meeting co-hosted by India and Japan in Bangalore, the discussions had covered possibilities of future cooperation in the region, the contribution of space technology to the Sustainable Development Goals, space policy in each country and the benefits of space exploration to the region.
14. Space exploration and utilization had already yielded tremendous scientific, economic and societal

benefits and helped further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The international community should continue striving for a better society through the peaceful use of outer space.

15. **Mr. Mohd Aini Atan** (Malaysia), hailing the significant progress made by COPUOS and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting international cooperation in space activities and the peaceful use of outer space, said that a greater focus was needed in the areas of Earth observation, the space debris problem, preventing an arms race in outer space, and space applications in disaster response, global health and education. His Government welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda, and it supported efforts to encourage information sharing in discovering, monitoring and characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects, all in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. UNISPACE+50 had offered Member States an opportunity to take stock of the past, present and future of global space activities and cooperation, and his Government endorsed the seven thematic priorities it had identified and the focus on the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. Malaysia was fully committed to ratifying or acceding to international treaties governing the use of outer space that upheld the legal principles in General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII), and, as it drafted its national outer space legislation, it looked forward to learning from other Member States which had already established their own outer space regulatory frameworks.

17. **Mr. Suárez Moreno** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that it was crucial to ensure that all nations had equal access to outer space as the common heritage of humankind. To that end, COPUOS and its Subcommittees provided the only platform for international cooperation on space-related activities. In order to contain the threat to peace and security posed by an outer space arms race, he underscored the importance of transparency and trust and the need for all States to refrain from taking actions aimed at the militarization of outer space, including the placement of weapons in outer space. Additionally, the use of satellites to intercept communications contravened the principle of the peaceful use of outer space and violated the sovereignty of States. He endorsed the Chinese-Russian draft treaty submitted to the Conference on Disarmament as a good starting point for negotiations towards adopting a legal instrument to preserve outer space as a completely peaceful sphere for the benefit of humankind.

18. His Government attached great importance to the development of national policies aimed at fostering the peaceful use of outer space. To that end, the Bolivarian Agency for Aerospace Activities had been established to develop research and development programmes that would make it possible to incorporate the use of space technology into decision-making in the Venezuelan public sector.

19. The removal and reduction of space debris must be addressed in a manner that neither hindered measures taken to strengthen the capacities of developing countries nor unduly burdened their space programmes. Space science and technology and their applications played an important part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for they provided viable solutions to many problems of socioeconomic development, communications, weather, the environment and more. Developed nations should pool their resources to help developing countries to set up space programmes, and COPUOS should especially promote space technologies for sustainable development and strengthen space-related initiatives for the Agenda 2030. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was committed to joining international efforts to make the best use of outer space for peaceful purposes, strictly in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the treaties on outer space.

20. **Mr. Batibonak** (Cameroon) said that States should take advantage of the benefits of space technology, including applications that could assist them in promoting sustainable development and overcoming challenges relating to climate change. However, with the militarization of space and the proliferation of space debris, that promising outlook was becoming increasingly bleak. The international community should seriously consider ways to ensure the safe and sustainable use of space, and how best to exploit it peacefully for the benefit of humanity. Strengthening international, regional and interregional cooperation, ensuring the rule of law, including the development of relevant regulations on space, and safeguarding peace in outer space were crucial to ensuring that space activities would continue to benefit all peoples regardless of their level of economic or scientific development.

21. In that regard, Cameroon welcomed United Nations efforts to establish an international legal regime incorporating and developing the concepts contained in the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. COPUOS should continue working to consolidate and strengthen that legal regime in order to ensure the peaceful, just and equitable use of space technology. All countries had the right to reap the benefits of outer space

activities, and developing countries should receive assistance from the international community to develop their space capabilities, thus enabling them to tackle their pressing economic and social challenges.

22. **Mr. Baek Yong-jin** (Republic of Korea) said that without proper coordination, evolving space technology and the growing number of actors and objects in the space realm could pose a threat to humankind. The coordinating role of COPUOS was therefore more crucial than ever. He hailed the arduous efforts that had allowed the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to reach a consensus on a set of guidelines, but hoped that COPUOS itself would soon complete the task of developing a final set of guidelines on the matter.

23. Outer space should remain safe, secure and sustainable. At the same time, the great potential of space science and technology to contribute to sustainable economic and social development should not be unduly hampered. His Government's recently adopted third master plan for space development and promotion illustrated how space technology could be used to address such global challenges as climate change. Transparency and confidence-building measures, by encouraging responsible action in outer space, addressed concerns about outer space security and sustainability, reduced risks and fostered a climate of trust. His Government had participated in the Group of Government Experts on Confidence-building Measures. As one of the leading spacefaring countries, the Republic of Korea would take active part in international efforts to ensure that space activities enhanced the well-being of humankind.

24. **Mr. Alhadi** (Iraq) said that UNISPACE+50 had contributed admirably to enabling all countries, regardless of their level of economic or scientific advancement, to benefit as was their right from the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. Member States had to ensure the sustainability of a just, lawful space regime fostering peaceful activities that would also further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A serious effort must be made to realize a common vision for the future of the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes; such a vision should be a central element of the "Space2030" agenda, in line with the seven thematic priorities established at UNISPACE+50.

25. Managing natural resources, guaranteeing food security and tackling climate change were some of the important applications of space science and technology. International cooperation was the appropriate means of facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best

practices in that regard. In addition, internationally agreed legal frameworks for the use of outer space had to be put in place. The gap between developed and developing countries in terms of space technology must be bridged in order to facilitate global initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. More should be done to make remote sensing satellites and precise data more widely available. Such data enabled developing countries to mitigate the impact of drought on food security and to monitor soil for agricultural use, among other applications.

26. Despite its all-consuming struggle against terrorism and the ongoing effort to rebuild liberated areas of the country, his Government was utilizing space applications for peaceful purposes. Free space data were used to monitor the toxicity of the atmosphere following oil fires resulting from attempts to tamper with crude-oil pipelines, and to study the impact of the fires. The concentrations of aerial plankton, dust, carbon dioxide and methane were also being measured using space technology in order to determine their impact on climate change. In order to control the destructiveness of the water hyacinth, an invasive plant whose spread throughout Iraqi rivers and marshes endangered water resources, data and images from Sentinel and Landsat satellites were being used to determine where the plant was growing and to monitor its growth and spread. Furthermore, space data and high-resolution satellite imaging provided by international space associations were being used to assess the extent of the devastation wrought in areas of the country by terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In the process, his Government's counter-terrorism campaign had been given a valuable boost.

27. Iraq firmly opposed the militarization of outer space and any other use of outer space harmful for humanity. It also reaffirmed the applicability of international law and the Charter of the United Nations in determining international liability for damage caused by space objects. In the interest of future generations, all States must provide information to the United Nations on their activities in outer space, in order to avert catastrophic accidents with potential repercussions for global peace.

28. **Mr. Giacomelli da Silva** (Brazil) said that his nation had always been in favour of maintaining outer space as a peaceful environment that all countries, regardless of their degree of development, were entitled to explore and use sustainably, to the benefit of humankind. Space technologies were indispensable in achieving sustainable development, and international cooperation played a crucial role in promoting the progress of space programmes, particularly in

developing countries. International partnerships in the space realm allowed countries to share common interests and objectives as well as costs and risks, address challenges in a coordinated manner and enjoy the benefits of space science. In the 1980s, Brazil and China had joined forces to develop the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite programme. The programme had enabled both countries to build and launch a family of satellites to monitor earth resources, with the next satellite, CBERS-4A, scheduled for launch in 2019. An early promoter of open data access policies to enable developing nations to benefit from satellite technologies, Brazil hosted a database of images at its National Institute for Space Research. His Government also offered training programmes in monitoring deforestation to participants from developing countries, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

29. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was the only multilateral forum through which matters related to the use of space could be addressed collectively, ensuring concern for the interests of developed and developing nations alike. The challenges associated with space activities therefore required an even stronger Committee capable of discovering solutions and improving the global governance of space for the decades to come. The "Space2030" agenda, along with the seven thematic priorities adopted during UNISPACE+50, would set the course for the future activities of COPUOS and help deliver the benefits of space science to more countries. In that connection, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs must be endowed with financial resources commensurate with the growing needs of States and the projected expansion of space activities.

30. Given the persistent concerns about the risk of conflict in outer space, there was a need to preserve the security and sustainability of outer space activities, which would be gravely and irreversibly threatened by even limited instances of use of force against space assets. Brazil therefore fully supported the actions to prevent an arms race in outer space outlined in the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, as recapitulated in his report on the work of the Organization (A/73/1). While COPUOS was not a disarmament forum, it made a vital contribution to preserving peace in outer space by building consensus, advancing the global governance of space activities and promoting awareness of the risks involved in space activities. The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities had done

commendable work in adopting the set of voluntary guidelines, but COPUOS must now carry that effort forward by developing a comprehensive set of guidelines aimed at ensuring the preservation and protection of the space environment for use by future generations.

31. Brazil supported the appointment of Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Mauritius and Paraguay as the newest members of COPUOS, as all States with an interest in space activities should be allowed to participate in its work. As Chair of COPUOS for 2019, Brazil would commit its best efforts to advance cooperation and protect the space environment while creating opportunities to benefit all humankind.

32. **Mr. Hodgkins** (United States of America) said that his Government was moving forward with the implementation of its national strategy for space, in close partnership with its allies and the private sector. Such an approach was essential in ensuring effective space operations through improved situational awareness and responsible behaviour in space. In order to enhance the sustainability of space activities, efforts were under way to implement a space policy directive on national space traffic management, which encouraged the development of new norms of behaviour and best practices for space operations through discussions with other spacefaring nations. COPUOS should remain a key multilateral forum to strengthen the safety, stability and sustainability of space activities.

33. Among that Committee's notable recent achievements was its endorsement of the preamble and 21 voluntary Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, successfully completed by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities, under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and representing best practices for the safe and responsible use of space. Nations must start thinking about how they intended to implement those guidelines at the national level, as the United States had begun to do.

34. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee had a distinguished history of promoting space exploration by developing space law through consensus. That Subcommittee had played a key role in establishing the main treaties on outer space, under which space exploration and utilization by nations, international organizations and private entities had flourished, enabling space technology and services to contribute immeasurably to economic growth and a better quality of life around the world. The Subcommittee had made good progress on the legal regime of outer space and global space governance, which reinforced the importance of the core outer space treaties and allowed

the voluntary international mechanisms subsequently developed by COPUOS to be evaluated. As a member, his delegation would work to ensure the successful completion of that important work.

35. The United States was pleased with the success of UNISPACE+50, particularly the decision to begin working on the "Space2030" agenda to chart the course ahead for COPUOS. It was also committed to developing a visionary document that would lay the foundation for that Committee's future work, taking into account efforts by Member States to move beyond low Earth orbit to the Moon, Mars and other celestial bodies while incorporating new commercial ventures.

36. For nearly six decades, COPUOS, as the only standing body in the field, had focused on building a consensus to advance the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all humanity. Given the scientific and commercial imperatives, there was no doubt that it would continue to make significant progress in promoting international space cooperation and in the process improve the quality of life for all on Earth.

37. **Ms. Al Abdali** (United Arab Emirates) said that expertise and resources in such a vital sector as outer space should be shared and information and best practices exchanged, in the interest of using space applications to enhance peoples' lives in all areas of endeavour. States must conduct their space activities responsibly and transparently and focus on confidence-building. At the same time, international law must be developed in order to curb any arms race in outer space.

38. Her Government had been working to build a strong, sustainable space sector, enacting a national space law as part of its national space policy. Under that policy it had launched projects such as the Emirates Mars Mission Hope Spacecraft and a simulation of life on Mars called "Mars Science City" intended as a preparation for actually building on Mars by 2117.

39. The United Arab Emirates was the first Arab member of the Space Exploration Committee, a member of COPUOS and the current vice-president of the International Astronautical Federation. It had also hosted two sessions of a preparatory high-level forum sponsored by the United Nations in 2016 and 2017 on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development, which had yielded valuable recommendations for UNISPACE+50.

40. Her country had promoted international and regional partnerships with leaders in the outer space sector, concluded 24 relevant memorandums of understanding and signed an agreement to send its first

astronaut to the International Space Station to participate in the Russian mission.

41. **Mr. Tituaña Matango** (Ecuador) said that UNISPACE+50 had provided an opportunity for greater collaboration among States to develop responsible space-application programmes for the common good, thereby increasing developing countries' access to outer space activities. Ecuador firmly endorsed the link between effective universal use of space science and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Intensified capacity-building and collaboration efforts with developing countries would provide greater international stability, leaving no one behind. Moreover, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015–2030 had highlighted the importance of leveraging space science for disaster management and emergency response to achieve such broader goals as sustainable development and poverty eradication.

42. In addition to advancing those broader goals, space technology could bolster environmental protection and fulfil international objectives to reduce the impact of climate change. Space technology could also improve urban planning and management; thus Ecuador welcomed the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

43. It was important to promote international cooperation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful uses and for the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as universal access to outer space for scientific and not only commercial purposes. As a finite resource, the geostationary orbit should be used rationally and equitably, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

44. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation underscored the importance of the full application of universally agreed principles governing outer space, the only way to ensure its sustainable, equitable use and exploration by all States for peaceful purposes on the basis of equality, non-ownership, non-discriminatory cooperation and non-interference. Accordingly, all States should be able to have access to outer space through space science, technologies and their applications, which were indispensable tools for sustainable development. Cooperation with developing countries in outer space activities and non-discriminatory sharing of scientific knowledge and technology should be promoted, given their dire needs. Furthermore, while ensuring the sustainability of outer space activities was highly important, it should not be used to impose limitations on the space programmes of developing countries.

45. In order to ensure the strict application of the principle of equality, it was important to adopt a non-discriminatory approach to space activities. The existing “first-come, first-served” regulations for orbital slot allocations restricted the capacity of developing countries to enjoy the benefits of geostationary orbit. The impact of space debris on the sustainable use of outer space was also a matter of concern. The States that had created space debris were exclusively responsible for its removal, taking into account their respective capacities to tackle the problem. The issue was a common concern, and therefore any measure to address it should respect the concerns and interests of all States and be agreed upon by consensus. Small satellite missions were increasingly important for the sustainable development of developing countries. No legal regime should be developed for such satellites, as that could impose limitations on their design, development, launch and use of small satellites.

46. To ensure that outer space was reserved exclusively for peaceful activities, all plans for the militarization or weaponization of outer space must be rejected. The announcement by the United States of America that it intended to create a military force for outer space was alarming, especially given its stated aims of dominance in space, developing space-based weapons and potentially waging war there. Such a step would increase the risk of an arms race or even armed conflict in outer space. The Islamic Republic thus fully supported the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on the prevention of such risks. Promoting the use of space science and technology, ensuring sustainability in outer space activities and maintaining outer space as a zone of peace were common responsibilities.

47. **Mr. Umar** (Nigeria) said that outer space must continue to be safeguarded collectively as the common heritage of humankind. The exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their level of social, economic or scientific development. All States, especially those with major space capabilities, should actively contribute to promoting the peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of an arms race. Equally, they should refrain from actions contrary to those objectives, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation.

48. Nigeria remained committed to using its growing capabilities in space science for purposes of development, and was working on projects in the areas of desertification, population analysis and carbon emission assessment. Space technology had immense

potential to benefit developed and developing countries, and the United Nations should thus promote equal, non-discriminatory access to outer space. The draft resolution adopted at UNISPACE+50 on space as a driver of sustainable development charted a useful course for the future of space exploration, which would be developed as COPUOS defined the “Space2030” agenda. Nigeria itself, 15 years after its first launch into orbit, had just launched a nanosatellite to the International Space Station. Through the commendable United Nations Programme on Space Applications – to which the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education was affiliated – COPUOS had been of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building activities and in fostering international cooperation.

49. The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) had been very beneficial in Nigeria and West Africa, and his country’s space agencies had collaborated with the Nigeria-based UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office to develop an effective national disaster management system. Climate change, one of the agents of natural disasters such as the dramatic shrinking of Lake Chad, had inhibited economic growth in Nigeria, triggering social conflicts, crime, disease, mass migration from hard-hit areas like the Lake Chad basin, and resulting cross-border conflict. His Government was working with regional and international partners to revitalize the ecosystem of the basin and monitor it via remote sensing, and hence recognized the imperative principle of non-discrimination in the availability of geospatial data, so crucial for sustainable development in such areas.

50. **Mr. Abbani** (Algeria) said that his Government had established a national space programme and was developing the country’s industrial capacities and meeting its requirements in theoretical knowledge and practical applications. The successful launch of three satellites had strengthened national Earth observation capacities and promoted sustainable development by protecting the environment and various ecosystems, monitoring desertification and land use, and preventing and managing natural disasters. Projects to develop space applications included training, research, and the use of natural-resource satellite imagery for tracking forest fires and for town planning.

51. Algeria supported all initiatives promoting inter-African cooperation in space applications and technologies for sustainable development, and had contributed to finalizing the African Union Space Policy and Strategy adopted in 2015. It was also participating in United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs efforts

to develop a scientific, technical and legal framework in Africa and other regions. Algeria and South Africa had set up a joint project using their respective Earth observation satellites in the African Resources Management Satellite Constellation to discover and manage resources required for regional development and anti-poverty efforts. Algeria also hosted the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office for natural disaster management.

52. His Government reaffirmed the importance of defining outer space and its relation to national airspaces to prevent and manage potential conflicts; ensuring fair access to orbital positions based on the peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space, rather than on a "first-come, first-served" basis; tackling the dangers of space debris without hampering the emerging capacities of developing countries, through voluntary implementation of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines; introducing a regulatory framework for high-resolution satellite data commercialization to prevent misuse; the recognition by COPUOS of developing countries' concerns in order to best help them develop their national space science and technology capabilities; and the active participation of COPUOS in preventing an arms race in space.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.