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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 49: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/69/20 and A/C.4/69/L.2)

1. **Mr. Abd Hadi** (Malaysia) said that his country's space programme had made significant progress, as its third Earth observation satellite, RazakSAT-2, was due to be launched in 2016 and would have higher-quality image acquisition than the previously launched satellites. Two other Malaysian satellites had recently come to the end of their service: RazakSAT in February 2013 and AFRICASAT-1 (previously named MEASAT-1) in April 2013.

2. In terms of its space infrastructure development, Malaysia had completed work on an assembly, integration and testing facility, which would soon be used to manufacture the RazakSat-2 satellite. The regional and global space community was invited to make use of the facility, which was under the purview of the National Space Agency of Malaysia, part of the country's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

3. Malaysia was fully committed to enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space in order to address a range of social and economic challenges, including poverty eradication, environmental protection and disaster management.

4. **Mr. Takahashi** (Japan) said that international cooperation through platforms such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was crucial for enhancing global governance in space technology, which provided indispensable telecommunications, Earth observation and navigation services. Japan welcomed the ongoing discussions at COPUOS on securing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and other related activities. The input of COPUOS to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) was a good example of how the Committee could also help tackle other global issues such as sustainable development.

5. At the regional level, his country had co-hosted the 2nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum Space Security Workshop in Tokyo in October 2014, in collaboration with Indonesia and the United States of America. In addition, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, which played a

key role in securing the benefits of space technologies for the Asia-Pacific region, was to hold its 21st session in Tokyo in December 2014.

6. Japan had launched the Global Precipitation Measurement core observatory, carrying dual-frequency precipitation radar, in February 2014, the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2, in May 2014, and the Himawari-8 geostationary meteorological satellite, in October 2014. Japan enjoyed a 96 per cent success rate for H-IIA rocket launches.

7. Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata had completed his 188-day stay in the International Space Station (ISS) in May 2014. As ISS commander for the latter part of his stay, he had led on-board operations as well as the use of the *Kibo* Japanese Experiment Module, in a spirit of harmony and cooperation. Two other Japanese astronauts had also been selected for expedition missions to ISS in 2015 and 2016 respectively. In addition, Japan was planning to launch the Asteroid Explorer *Hayabusa 2* in December 2014.

8. **Mr. Tissot-Daguette** (Switzerland) said that COPUOS had a vital role to play in fostering international cooperation to promote sustainable development and prevent the pollution and militarization of outer space. Switzerland would continue to participate actively in the consideration of the draft guidelines to ensure the long term sustainability of outer space activities; the intensity of the discussions to date had demonstrated the importance attached by States to freedom of access to outer space and related technology.

9. Owing to the overlap between civil and military issues in space-related activities, the space community and disarmament community should work closely together to implement the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, some of which applied to both domains. His delegation was therefore pleased that COPUOS had taken on the mandate to consider how best to put the recommendations into practice. Some of the recommendations were relevant for inclusion in the draft guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The Conference on Disarmament should also continue its efforts in that regard, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 68/50. COPUOS and the Conference on Disarmament should present the results of their work at

a joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees during the seventieth session of the General Assembly, as suggested by the Group of Governmental Experts, with a view to finding solutions for preserving outer space security and stability.

10. The process initiated by the European Union for developing an international code of conduct for outer space activities brought together space and disarmament experts; his delegation supported the opening of formal negotiations, which should be fully inclusive and participative to ensure that the final document was acceptable to as many States as possible. The code of conduct should cover both civil and military activities and treat participating international organizations on an equal basis, with respect for their legal personality. The new instruments must be complementary and coherent, and there should be no duplication. In creating electronic databases or information exchange structures, it was important to maintain coherence with the work of COPUOS.

11. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and Office for Disarmament Affairs must coordinate with each other in order to provide consistent support to the joint work of the space and disarmament communities, which had a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term viability of outer space activities.

12. **Mr. Al-Rikabi** (Iraq) expressed support for initiatives that promoted the peaceful uses of outer space and called for all countries, both developed and developing, to be given access to outer space for peaceful purposes on an equal and transparent basis.

13. In its 2013-2016 development plan, his Government had recognized the importance of space technology for sustainable development. It had also explicitly adopted the decisions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and the Rio+20 Conference, some of which had made reference to the importance of geospatial information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in achieving sustainable development in Iraq.

14. To promote space science and technology, in particular among the younger generation, the Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology had signed a cooperation agreement in 2012 with the Government of Italy. Under the agreement, Italy had funded a specialist training programme at the University of

Rome "La Sapienza" during which 15 recently-graduated Iraqi engineers had designed, built and launched a CubeSat satellite named TigriSat to monitor dust storms.

15. His Government had also signed an agreement with the European Union to carry out a 30 year project to use space technology to monitor water resources in Iraq, a country where water resources were dwindling and droughts were on the rise. The project highlighted the importance of international cooperation in the field of space technology as a way of promoting sustainable development.

16. Iraq supported the adoption of national and international agreements and laws to govern outer space. It had signed various international treaties on the issue and was in the process of drafting national legislation to incorporate the legal requirements contained therein. His Government was grateful to the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the Inter Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology and the United Nations Environment Programme for their assistance in the field of space technology and to the United States Geological Survey for having provided Iraq with a complete set of satellite images of the country.

17. **Ms. Sughayar** (Jordan) said that outer space and related technology must be used only for peaceful purposes, for example to boost economies and improve quality of life. To that end, regional and international cooperation should be strengthened to bring about a consensus on the safe and responsible conduct of space-based activities and implement the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. Binding international legal instruments must be established to guarantee the peaceful uses of outer space and regulate the growing number of space-based activities, taking account of national sovereignty and the boundaries between outer space and States' airspace so as to avoid disputes. Outer space issues should not be separated from disarmament issues, and the use of outer space for military purposes must be prohibited.

18. Jordan would pursue closer international cooperation to promote the peaceful uses of outer space and build its own capacity, including its disaster management and emergency response capabilities. All States should be given equal, indiscriminate access to outer space for peaceful purposes and in return must ensure that all space activities carried out by both

governmental and non-governmental entities conformed with the United Nations principles of peace and security. Communication and knowledge exchange between States should be enhanced to help developing countries build their technical capacity, with due regard to their needs and interests, thus enabling them to contribute actively to the peaceful uses of outer space.

19. In 2012, the United Nations Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, which was intended to provide professional skills and academic opportunities in the field of space technology, had been established in Jordan. Her country supported the peaceful uses of outer space and space technology to benefit all peoples, regardless of their level of economic and scientific development.

20. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country firmly believed that all countries must have equal access to outer space for peaceful purposes, and that all countries should be able to benefit from its potential on an equal basis. International recommendations and regulations should therefore not limit that access for developing countries with emerging space capabilities. All countries were responsible for preventing the outbreak of an outer space arms race, which constituted a major threat to mankind. His country was firmly committed to preventing the militarization and all other misuse of outer space. The post-2015 development agenda should take into account the importance of outer space activities for sustainable development; any code of conduct governing such activities must be created within the legal framework of the United Nations with the full contribution of Member States.

21. The geostationary orbit was a limited resource and should be made available to all States on an equal basis, taking account of their geographical location, in conformity with international standards, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which was particularly prone to natural disasters, welcomed the progressive implementation of United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programmes, in which the country's regional support office played an active role.

22. His country had recently made considerable progress in the realm of space science and technology; in 2009 it had launched its first domestically-made data-processing satellite, named Omid, which was to be used purely for peaceful purposes, and in 2013 it had successfully launched a live animal into space for the second time and returned it safely to Earth. The Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to continue its advancement in the area of outer space on the basis of national capabilities and purely for peaceful purposes and supported international cooperation in that field.

23. **Mr. Vallarino** (Argentina) said that his country supported the rational, peaceful use of outer space for the collective benefit of current and future generations, and reiterated that the benefits of space technology and space data should be made available to all countries.

24. Argentina's National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE) was engaged in a number of ongoing projects as part of the country's national space programme. For example, the SAC D/Aquarius satellite, launched in 2011, continued to monitor various oceanographic and meteorological phenomena, including conditions at the Gourdon glacier on the Antarctic peninsula. The SAOCOM 1 and 2 satellites, due to be launched in 2016 and 2017 respectively in collaboration with the Italian space agency, would detect and monitor water-related emergencies. The SABIA-Mar joint satellite project due to be launched by Argentina and Brazil in five years' time would monitor the coasts of both countries, with a focus on fisheries and oil exploitation; that project clearly demonstrated the strategic alliance between the two countries in the field of science and technology. Argentina would continue its work on the Tronador II satellite launcher, which would enable the country to launch a new series of satellites into orbit.

25. In the field of space science and technology, international cooperation helped to foster progress, build capacity and facilitate information exchange among States. In that context, the thirteenth UN-SPIDER regional support office had been established in Buenos Aires in 2012 to help build space-related capacity and use satellite technology to contribute to disaster management efforts in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. Access to outer space for peaceful purposes must be provided to the entire international community on an equal basis. For developing countries, it was not only technological development that was important, but also sustainable

development. International law must be complied with in all space-related activities, and international cooperation was essential.

26. ARSAT-1, the first geostationary communications satellite to be built in Argentina, was due to be launched from French Guiana that very day. The satellite, which would be used to transmit television, telephone and data signals to the whole of Argentina as well as to neighbouring countries, represented a significant technological achievement for the country and the region. It was the first of three satellites which would form part of the Argentine geostationary satellite telecommunications system.

27. **Mr. Alsubaie** (Saudi Arabia) encouraged all Member States to sign the five United Nations treaties on outer space and called for adherence to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies so as to prevent commercial interests from influencing discussions on outer space activities. Strict measures must also be taken to prevent the militarization of outer space.

28. His country, which had recently participated in the consultations on the establishment of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, encouraged States to take advantage of space technology to boost economic, social and cultural development. He called for increased international cooperation to refine and implement space law and to reduce space debris without hindering the progress of developing countries in the field of outer space activities. Improved coordination between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS would boost efforts to draw up international standards on space debris. His delegation commended the work of the European Space Agency and measures taken by certain States to monitor and reduce space debris.

29. As the result of a joint project between the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Stanford University and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America, Saudi Arabia had launched its 13th satellite, SaudiSAT 4. In addition to its standard functions, the satellite was also testing an integrated remote control system for electrical charge using ultraviolet light-emitting diodes.

30. His Government had established a national science, technology and innovation plan centred on using technology to implement development plans. It had held science and technology events in Riyadh and Dammam in celebration of World Space Week and was to hold the third Saudi International Space and Aeronautics Technology Conference at the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology at the end of 2014.

31. Geostationary orbit, a limited resource, must be used in a rational and fair manner, taking into account the needs of developing countries. In addition, the boundaries of outer space should be clearly defined in order to prevent disputes over outer space activities, especially in view of the growing involvement of the private sector and commercial interests in outer space.

32. **Mr. Shang Zhen** (China) said that his delegation supported the active participation of COPUOS in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and hoped that, while maintaining the sustainability of space activities, it would strive to make space technology more conducive to sustainable human development. As an active participant in the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, China deemed that concerted international action was required on that issue. Furthermore, the draft guide for the Working Group should be prepared on a consensus basis and aim to promote Member States' efforts to develop space industry, participate in international cooperation and expand space applications. It was important, however, to avoid going beyond the development stage, technical capability and management level of Member States' respective space industries. As for the issue of "soft law", his Government believed that non-legally binding instruments on outer space within the United Nations framework constituted a useful supplement to the existing legal regime for outer space and reflected the efforts of the international community to regulate space activities and promote the rule of law in outer space. The focus should be on the exchange of information and experience on space "soft law" rather than on development or enforcement thereof; hoped that the Legal Subcommittee should adhere strictly to its mandate.

33. His Government actively engaged in international exchanges and cooperation in an effort to make space technology more widely available. In that regard it had hosted a series of international meetings, including the

31st meeting of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, the 32nd session of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, the 27th annual session of the Association of Space Explorers and the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management, which had provided platforms for countries to share experience, respond to challenges and explore future development. Furthermore, in November 2014, his Government would host a seminar on space law, examining the relationship between domestic legislation and the rule of law in outer space and comparing space legislation in different countries. To coincide with the seminar, a new regional centre for space science and technology education would be officially inaugurated at Beihang University.

34. Over the past year, China's space industry had continued to register a number of achievements, including the Chang E III soft landing and research activities on the Moon, in December 2013; the successful launch of the Gaofen-2 satellite, a civilian remote-sensing satellite with sub-metre high-resolution imagery; and progress in a number of engineering projects in areas such as manned spaceflight, satellite remote sensing and the Beidou satellite navigation system. Space technology had been widely applied in various fields ranging from meteorology to disaster mitigation, communication and broadcasting and played an increasingly important role in socioeconomic development.

35. Ensuring the peaceful uses and preventing the weaponization of outer space was in the common interest of all nations, and was their shared responsibility. In June 2014, China and the Russian Federation had jointly presented a new text of the draft treaty on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects at the Conference on Disarmament. China was ready to continue to work with all States to advance the negotiations for an outer space arms control treaty and to strengthen international exchange and cooperation in outer space. A more effective response to challenges in that regard would be possible through better coordination among space-related mechanisms within the United Nations.

36. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that Algeria's national space programme adopted in 2006 was the basis of its outer space policy and sought, in particular, to develop national industrial capacities, to meet the

needs of various sectors and to gain knowledge and know-how. The projects that were being implemented in Algeria were designed to use space technologies to accelerate the achievement of socioeconomic development goals while at the same time encouraging international and regional cooperation. The implementation of the national space programme had been intensified in 2014, notably with a team of Algerian engineers at the Oran Satellite Development Centre Algeria starting the first satellite integration operation under the Alsat-2B programme and with the launch of the integration project of the second Alsat-1B satellite. Furthermore, several projects to develop space applications had been carried out in collaboration with relevant sectors in a number of areas, including risk management, natural resources, and geographic information systems (GIS) for mapping forest fire affected zones, monitoring urbanization and habitat and mapping potential solar sites in Algeria. Continued efforts in training and research activities included tertiary-level programmes offered at the Doctoral School of Space Technology and Applications.

37. Algeria supported all initiatives to promote inter-African cooperation in space technologies and applications in order to advance sustainable development in Africa, notably by contributing to various initiatives of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop a scientific, technical and legal framework across Africa. For example, the African Resource Management Constellation (ARMC), established in 2009 under an agreement signed between Algeria, South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, was helping to build knowledge and rationalize management of the resources needed to consolidate the regional development process and combat poverty through satellite coverage and the provision of low-cost, efficient services. Furthermore, an Algerian project for an earth observation satellite had been approved at the seventeenth summit meeting of the Heads of Arab States in March 2005 and had gone through several stages of discussion and validation since its launch. A UN-SPIDER regional support office had been in operation at Algiers since 2011.

38. His delegation recalled that it was important to define and delineate outer space, given its close correlation with national airspace, so as to prevent and manage any conflicts that might arise from space activities. In addition, guaranteeing equitable access to

orbital positions based on the principles of the peaceful uses and non-appropriation of outer space would put an end to the inequitable practice of “first-come first-served” in the use of geostationary satellite orbits. Furthermore, the international community must address the danger represented by the proliferation of space debris without inhibiting emerging capacities in developing countries. His delegation was in favour of the voluntary implementation of guidelines on the reduction of space debris. Finally, it was important to establish a regulatory framework governing the commercialization of high resolution satellite data to prevent the use of such data for harmful purposes.

39. **Mr. Leonidchenko** (Russian Federation) said that the development of outer space had great potential to solve global problems in the long term, but progress in that regard was difficult and required coordinated efforts by the entire international community. The Russian Federation engaged in wide-ranging scientific and technological cooperation in the outer space sector. It was not only successfully operating its segment of the International Space Station but was currently providing all essential transportation for that project. It was also transmitting a standard precision signal worldwide, including to the International Civil Aviation Organization, through the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and had set up a thematic exhibit thereon on the sidelines of the fifty-seventh session of COPUOS. It was striving to further develop international cooperation with regard to global navigation systems and ensure their complementarity and compatibility, for the benefit of the whole world, and was seeking global partnerships to that end.

40. Since outer space activities were increasingly considered a strategic resource for all humanity, the Russian Federation, which had always supported the responsible and peaceful use of outer space, firmly believed that enhanced security in outer space would facilitate agreement on the guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer-space activities. The concrete proposals his country had put forward, which included the establishment of a unified centre for information on near-Earth space monitoring under the auspices of the United Nations, demonstrated the close interlinkages of all aspects of human activity in outer space and included proposals for the incorporation of a number of new best practices in international cooperation.

41. The Russian Federation continued to participate actively in the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT), including by making available a geostationary satellite. His delegation was satisfied with the progress made in the UN-SPIDER programme, which had proved to be a valuable disaster management mechanism. It supported the view that Member States should voluntarily implement the COPUOS guidelines on space debris. His Government was taking action in that regard, in accordance with domestic legislation and duly taking into account global efforts to introduce measures to reduce space debris as well as the practice of other States, space agencies and organizations.

42. The Committee should retain its role as the main forum for the coordination of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. His delegation had, on several occasions, highlighted the need to strengthen the legal foundations of outer space activities; its initiatives seeking a comprehensive and phased adaptation of the whole system of outer space law to modern realities through a single treaty under the auspices of the United Nations were still relevant. The ultimate goal of its proposals was to establish reliable guarantees for the exclusively peaceful use of outer space and to afford broad access to the benefits of outer space activities.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.