

STATEMENT BY PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 51 – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USERS OF OUTER SPACE IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE [4<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE] OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 13, 2011

**Madam Chair**

The Indian Delegation is pleased to note the successful deliberations of the 54<sup>th</sup> session of UN-COPUOS, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu of Romania, and the substantial progress made during the session. The delegation notes with appreciation that UNCOPUOS, under the mandate of the General Assembly, continues to contribute significantly towards capacity building for sustainable development, and strengthening international co-operation to utilise outer space for peaceful purposes towards serving the humanity. The Indian Delegation also expresses its full satisfaction at the work carried out by the two sub-committees of UNCOPUOS, the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee at its 48<sup>th</sup> session and the Legal Sub-committee at its 50<sup>th</sup> session.



**Madam Chair**

While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavors during the last one year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Assembly on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space since the last Session.

On April 20, 2011, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-16) precisely placed RESOURCESAT-2 and two auxiliary satellites namely YOUTHSAT and X-SAT into their intended orbits. RESOURCESAT-2 is augmenting the multispectral imaging capability of India as a follow-on mission to RESOURCESAT-1. YOUTHSAT is a small satellite built with participation of the Moscow State University; and X-SAT is a small satellite built by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) with ISRO's support.

On May 21, 2011, India's advanced communication satellite, GSAT-8, was successfully launched by Arianespace from Kourou, French Guiana. GSAT-8 carries 24 Ku-band transponders and a navigation payload "GAGAN".

An advanced communication satellite HYLAS (Highly Adaptable Satellite), built by ISRO on commercial basis in partnership with EADS-Astrium, was successfully launched on November 27, 2010.

On July 15, 2011, PSLV-C17, in its eighteenth successive successful flight, precisely injected GSAT-12 communication satellite into an elliptical transfer orbit.

India has achieved significant progress in the last one year, in realizing GSLV Mk III, a heavier class launch vehicle, capable of launching 4-ton class communication satellites into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

### **Madam Chair**

The Indian delegation is proud to inform this Assembly that the Indo-French joint satellite mission for monitoring tropical atmosphere, named 'Megha-Tropiques', has been launched from Sriharikota yesterday through PSLV-C18. This has been a good example of international cooperation and the data from this satellite is to be used by the global scientific community including NASA, NOAA and EUMETSAT. Megha Tropiques will be one of the eight satellites of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) constellation, contributing to the global scientific community's research to study the dynamics of climate system. In the coming months, India plans to augment her constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites.

### **Madam Chair**

The Indian space programme continues to integrate the advances in space technology and applications with national developmental goals. Many national and regional programmes of societal relevance are continuing, apart from newer initiatives to reach the space-based products and services to the society.

India places considerable importance on International Cooperation for peaceful use of outer space. Currently, formal instruments of cooperation are in place with more than 35 countries and international organizations.

**Madam Chair**

In the field of capacity building, India continues to share its expertise and services in the application of Space Technology. The Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, affiliated to the UN and operating from India, has so far benefitted 994 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia- Pacific region and 28 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia- Pacific region.

**Madam Chair**

In conclusion, the Indian delegation greatly acknowledges the potential of space technology and the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. India fully supports UNCOPUOS in all its endeavours to increase awareness in this regard.

**Thank you Madam Chair**

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