

**74th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

**Fourth Committee: Agenda 49(a)
International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**India Statement
by
Mr. Deepak Misra, Minister**

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Mr. Chairman,

India acknowledges the significant role played by the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the benefit of humankind. The deliberations of 62nd session of COPUOS have been very significant, especially the work carried out by the Scientific & Technical and Legal sub-committees.

Mr. Chairman,

India has been pursuing space activities over five decades with the vision of utilizing the applications of space technology for the benefit of the common man. Our space programme has focused on integrating advances in space technology and applications with national development goals. This is evident from the fact that Indian Space Research Organisation, the national space agency of India, is currently working with 60 Ministries and Departments of Government of India, to promote space technology tools & applications for good governance and national development. 160 different space applications have been developed so far.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavours, performed through their agencies and private sector, during the past year. India too has made commendable achievements in its space programme, including launch vehicle missions, satellite missions for earth observation, communication, navigation and the exploratory mission to moon.

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had four successful missions (PSLV C43, C44, C45 and C46), the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) had one mission (GSLVF11) and GSLV Mark III had two missions (GSLV Mk IIID2 and GSLV-Mk III M1) during the period. India has also launched 10 satellites. These include the heaviest satellite built by India, GSAT-11, and the second mission to the Moon – Chandrayaan-2. India has also launched 58 satellites from other countries.

In addition, we would also like to update the progress made on the prestigious Gaganyaan – the Indian human spaceflight programme. A dedicated Human Space Flight Centre has been established to ensure effective implementation and execution of the project. The center is collaborating with international space agencies in various aspects of human spaceflight.

An International Symposium on Human Spaceflight is scheduled at Bengaluru during January 22 -24, 2020. This is being organized jointly with the International Academy of Astronautics and will deliberate on the challenges and future trends of human spaceflight.

Mr. Chairman,

Since its inception, international cooperation has been an important element of the Indian space programme. With vast experience in peaceful use of outer space activities, India has been sharing its experience through international cooperation to achieve the above goals. Currently we have formal cooperation agreements with around 55 countries and 5 multinational bodies.

In the last one year, India signed documents for cooperation with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Finland, Bahrain, Bolivia and Tunisia. India is working to realize two joint satellites missions, one each with USA and France. A feasibility study to have a Joint Lunar Mission with Japan is under progress. Agreements have also been signed with France and Germany for exchange of professionals. India continues to share its facilities and expertise through the UN-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) at Dehradun.

Mr. Chairman,

India actively participates and contributes to various regional and international space forums such as Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), Group on Earth Observations (GEO), Committee on Earth Observation Systems (CEOS), International Space

Exploration Forum, as well as international disaster management mechanisms, including International Charter, Sentinel Asia, ESCAP and UN SPIDER and Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC).

India would like to convey to this august forum that, as part of UNISPACE+50 initiatives, India has announced a “Capacity building programme on small satellite realization” named ‘UNNATI’ (UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly & Training) by ISRO. It is a unique contribution providing excellent opportunities to entities in developing countries to strengthen their capabilities in assembling, integrating and testing small satellites. The first batch of 29 officials from 17 countries has successfully completed the training during January – March 2019 at URSC. For the second batch, a total of 30 experts from 16 countries have been selected and the programme commenced from October 15, 2019.

In addition, we would like to seek the attention of the forum to the two opportunities announced during the 62nd session of the COPUOS, offering ISRO Sounding rockets and the spent 4th stage of PSLV for conducting scientific experiments. The Indian delegation requests the international scientific community to make use of this opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

India is a party to the major international treaties/regulations relating to outer space and has been implementing those provisions as part of its space programme. The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines endorsed by UN General Assembly, are being implemented systematically in every phase of space system realisation, operation and disposal.

We are in the process of formulating a national space legislation, to facilitate the overall growth of space activities in India with enhanced participation of non-governmental sector agencies in compliance with international treaty obligations.

India has been contributing to the cause of capacity building in space law by supporting national & international workshops and seminars on space law. We also encourage and support participation of student teams from India in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the new challenges which have emanated in outer space activities, the application of UN Treaties becomes more relevant in order to use outer space for the benefit of humanity. We need to strengthen the international legal framework to address new developments to enhance the safety and security of all space assets.

We believe that international consultations and consensus on these issues is essential at this juncture. In this regard, the ongoing initiatives and deliberations in COPUOS would significantly contribute to the sustenance of outer space environment and related activities. India has been very closely associated with this important process.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, India reaffirms its support to this Committee in its endeavors towards ensuring long term sustainability of outer space activities for the benefit of entire humanity.

Thank you