

**73rd session of UNGA
Fourth Committee**

**Agenda Item : 53
International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**INDIA STATEMENT
By
Statement by Mr. Deepak Misra, Minister**

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Mr. Chairman,

The outer space, as an important global common, has required nations to collaborate in developing common norms and guidelines for its exploration for mutual benefit. The Outer Space Treaty flowed from such efforts fifty years ago.

2. Outer space programmes are highly cost and risk-intensive. Cooperation helps make the cost and risk more manageable. Space exploration for scientific research benefits from international cooperation by pooling scientific expertise, experience and institutional capacities.

3. Human endeavours in outer space have been built upon substantial international collaboration, even as the early space exploration ignited a space race. Today there are a number of private entities also operating in these activities for mainly commercial purposes including space tourism and space resource mining.

4. Our increasing dependence on space-based systems warrants uninterrupted services and protection from varied threats such as space debris, space weather or other weaponisation or cyber threats. This again requires international norm setting and collaboration, especially in the context of the close interface between the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and national security challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

5. India is a space faring nation with a longstanding well-established and highly cost effective space programme.

6. India's space programme has focused primarily on the application of space technology for development needs, more than space exploration. It is truly a peoples' programme.

7. While India has launched successful missions to the Moon and Mars in recent years and a second mission to the Moon and a manned spaceflight are planned, satellite-based applications have long been the mainstay in India for their deployment for remote sensing and for telecommunication, especially to take its practical benefits to remote areas.

8. From mapping and surveying natural resources, water, crops and soils to monitoring, meteorology and predicting natural disasters; and from television to tele-medicine and tele-education, these programmes have played an important role in bringing development programmes to our people. The 7-satellite NavIC constellation provides position, navigation and timing services for several applications including for fishermen.

9. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working with all the Central ministries and departments to enhance the use of space applications in governance and sustainable development. India is now in the process of formulating a national space legislation to facilitate enhanced participation of non-governmental sector in compliance with international treaty obligations.

10. India continues to collaborate with international partners in undertaking space programmes such as launching of satellites as also to share some of the benefits with non-space faring nations for their development programmes and to help in building their human resource and institutional capacities.

Mr. Chairman,

11. India currently has nearly 200 formal cooperation agreements with nearly 50 countries and several international bodies for space programmes for peaceful purposes. During the last year, we entered into agreements with Algeria, Brunei, Indonesia, Oman and South Africa.

12. India has been assisting its neighbouring countries in a range of surveying efforts including for horticulture crop inventory, forest mapping, drought monitoring and urban sprawl. Last year India launched a satellite dedicated for use of its telecommunication services by the South Asian nations.

13. An agreement has been signed for the setting up of a ground station by India in Vietnam for ASEAN member states.
14. At the recent UNISPACE+50 India announced a capacity building programme, for fellow developing countries to assemble, integrate and test small satellites. The programme developed in partnership with UNOOSA, is called UNNATI (UNISPACE Nanosatellite Assembly and Training).
15. Last November India hosted the 24th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) with the theme 'Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development' in Bengaluru. Last October India hosted the 38th Asian Conference of Remote Sensing with the theme 'Space Applications : Touching Human Lives' in New Delhi. In June this year we hosted the 46th Plenary of the Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS).
16. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continues to share its facilities and expertise through the UN-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) based in Dehradun. There have been more than 1600 participants from more than 50 countries.
17. India's space programme remains focused on peaceful uses of outer space. India is a founding member of UNCOPUOS and is a Party to all major international treaties relating to outer space, including the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention and the Moon Treaty.
18. India has supported efforts to build mutual trust and confidence, including through the discussions on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space activities at UNCOPUOS. India has also supported substantive consideration of the issue of Prevention of Arms Race (PAROS) at the Conference on Disarmament.
19. India implements a number of TCBMs including registering of space objects with the UN register; pre-launch notifications; measures in harmony with UN Space Mitigation Guidelines; participation in Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) activities with regard to space debris management; undertaking SOPA (Space Object Proximity Awareness) and COLA (Collision Avoidance) Analysis.
20. India has also been actively engaged in capacity building in space law, through hosting several national and international workshops and seminars on these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

21. Outer space is our common heritage. India looks forward to working with partners in our common endeavour to ensure long term sustainability of outer space activities through meaningful international cooperation.

Thank you.
