
Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation is happy to note that UN-COPUOS, under the mandate of the General Assembly, has been contributing significantly towards capacity building for
sustainable development and strengthening international cooperation to maintain outer space peaceful towards serving the interests of all the countries. We are pleased to note that substantial progress has been made during the 52 session of UN-COPUOS, under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Mr. Ciro Arevalo Yepes of Columbia. The Indian delegation is delighted to note that with the approval of the UN General Assembly, a new agenda item on ‘Space and Climate’ has been included and fruitful deliberations of this pressing issue of global concern has taken place at this 52nd Session of UN-COPUOS.

The Indian delegation also expresses its full satisfaction at the work carried out by the two sub-committees of UN-COPUOS, the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee at its 46th session and the Legal Sub-committee at its 48th session.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation places on record its appreciation to various member nations for their significant achievements in space during the last one year.

Mr. Chairman

During the last one year, India made a significant stride in space exploration through the Chandrayaan mission. On 22nd October 2008, India’s launch vehicle PSLV-C11 injected the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft into an elliptical transfer orbit around the Earth and later, through a series of orbital maneuvers, Chandrayaan-1 was placed in a 100 km circular orbit around the Moon. On 14th November 2008 India set its imprints on the surface of the Moon using the Moon Impact Probe.

With well-defined objectives through high-resolution remote sensing of moon in the visible, near infrared, microwave and X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, Chandrayaan-1 mission intended to study the Moon using eleven scientific instruments built in India and five other countries. With this, preparation of a 3-dimensional atlas of the lunar surface and chemical and mineralogical mapping of entire lunar surface is undertaken by scientists from India and abroad. Recently scientific community across the globe gathered in Bangalore to study the invaluable data yielded by various instruments of Chandrayaan mission. The Indian delegation is proud to report that within a short time, Chandrayaan-1 has achieved its mission objective to the satisfaction of global scientific community.

Mr. Chairman
Our delegation is proud to report that the students and faculty of an Indian University built an experimental satellite called ANUSAT under the overall guidance of ISRO. ANUSAT was successfully launched by PSLV in its fourteenth successive successful flight on 20th April 2009, as a co-passenger to the Radar Imaging Satellite RISAT-2.

**Mr. Chairman**

The Oceansat-2, slated to be launched shortly, would also carry a Radio Occultation Sounder from Italy. Also, India is getting ready for launch of CARTOSAT-2B, RESOURCESAT-2, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1) as well as the ISRO-CNES joint mission Megha Tropiques using PSLV. Six small satellites built by Germany, Turkey, Switzerland, a YOUTHSAT with participation of Moscow State University, an X-SAT with participation of NTU of Singapore, NLS-6 of Canada and ALSAT-2 from Algeria are also scheduled to be launched as co-passengers in these flights.

Towards providing satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing service to be communities in the region, India is building GPS and Geo Augmented Navigation system GAGAN as well as an Indian Regional Navigation Satellite system – IRNSS.

**Mr. Chairman**

In the area of Space Applications, India has made notable progress in seamlessly integrating the advances in space technology and applications with the national developmental goals, particularly in vital services such as telecommunications, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning, as well as natural resources survey and management.

In our efforts to provide quality education across the country, the Tele-education project, undertaken a couple of years ago, now connects teacher and student at primary, secondary and University level through more than 35,000 EDUSAT classrooms. The Tele-medicine project today connects 375 hospitals, of which 305 hospitals in the Remote/rural/and District levels and 13 mobile vans have been connected to 57 Super Specialty hospitals located in major cities. Today, more than 470 Village Resource Centres including 45 Expert Centres have been established. We consider that this concept of Village Resource Centres is appropriate for other developing countries as well.
**Mr. Chairman**

India places considerable importance on bilateral and multilateral relations with space agencies and space related bodies with the aim of minimizing the cost of access to space, of taking up new scientific and technological challenges, defining international frameworks for exploitation and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes, and building and strengthening existing ties between countries.

Currently, formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Agreements are in place with more than 30 countries and international organizations. Many of these understandings pave way for sharing our expertise in the use of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development. India’s joint missions with France, namely, the Megha Tropiques and SARAL, will provide useful data to the global scientific community for understanding the tropical weather phenomenon. India also plays an active role in several international bodies in fostering partnership with the member countries in use of space technology for the benefit of mankind.

**Mr. Chairman**

India has also carried out many satellite based application projects which have direct relevance to sustainable development. Monitoring of snow & glaciers in the Himalayas including areas of neighbourhood countries; Collaboration with GEO in Agricultural crop status monitoring; Mapping of coral reef in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives; Impact of sea level rise on coastal environment in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; Topographical mapping of Maldives; Establishment of remote sensing centres at Male, Mauritius and Myanmar; Disaster Management support through International Charter and Sentinel Asia initiatives; Locust prone area mapping in Kazakhstan are some of the projects pursued in this direction. India is actively participating in the initiative of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) including Sentinel Asia project to share satellite data for disaster mitigation and STAR-Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region programme, for sharing expertise gained in developing and operating satellite IMS-1.

India successfully organized the 8th IAA International Conference on Low cost Planetary Missions (LCPMB) at Goa, India during August 31 to September 4, 2009 with participation of scientists from various space agencies.
Mr. Chairman

India takes special interest in capacity building and services for enabling the developing countries in the application of Space technology. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and Pacific Region, affiliated to UN and operating from India, is an initiative in this direction. So far 824 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and 27 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia-pacific region have benefited from the educational activities of this Centre. India would like to request more participation from the member countries.

Mr. Chairman

Having achieved self-reliance in end-to-end space programme, the Indian space programme is entering into space exploration phase mainly to explore inner solar system and build such capabilities for exploring outer solar system. Exploration of outer space using planetary missions will be furthered with Chandrayaan-2 and its follow on missions.

India has also been discussing at various levels the need for embarking on a human spaceflight programme.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to support the General Assembly and UN-COPUOS in all their endeavours to increase the awareness of space-based benefits and to encourage developing countries in taking up the space application programmes for sustainable development and to maintain outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

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