

In the Name of GOD, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Statement by the Head of the Delegation of the Islamic
Republic of Iran,
H.E. Ahmad Talebzadeh,
Vice-Minister and President of the Iranian Space Agency,
before the
50th Meeting
of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
6-15 June 2007
Vienna, Austria**

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Agenda Item 4: “General Exchange of Views”

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this august gathering of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Benefiting from the opportunity I wish to extend my congratulations to the chairman, the first and the second vice-chairs of the Committee, Mr. Gerard Brachet, Mr. Elod Both and Mr. Paul R. Tiendrebeogo. I appreciate the hard and pressing work done by the COPUOS Bureau and Mr. Chairman; that your rich experience will make this 50th session a full success. On behalf of my delegation I wish to express our full satisfaction and gratitude for the extensive efforts of the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Sergio Camacho Lara and his able staff for their continuous efforts. I also congratulate him particularly for his hard work for more than two decades in the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the directorship of the Office in recent five years.

Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to join the other delegations to celebrate this 50th session of COPUOS as the mark of nations' interest to use and explore space peacefully. Nevertheless believing that this human heritage belongs to all humanity and all generations and should be explored and exploited for the peace and wellness of humankind, my delegation fully supports the efforts for exploring Moon and other Planets of Solar System for the benefit of humanity and future generations. We believe that outer space should be kept free of arms and military races in full peace.

Mr. Chairman:

We strongly believe that space is the mankind heritage and it should remain clean of any threat against humanity and environment. As a result, we are very much concerned about the efforts followed by the COPUOS and its member countries and international bodies in setting up the regulations for the careful use of nuclear power sources in space as well as other activities which could endanger the humanity and life in our Planet.

Mr. Chairman:

The important issues like degradation of natural resources, natural disasters, diseases, illiteracy, deprivation as well as technological disasters are still the great threat against humanity and effective action is needed to be carried out globally, regionally and locally to encounter those threats. We believe that international and global commitment and collaboration is a great necessity for our effective contribution, while our association in COPUOS serves towards such commitment and collaboration using space science and technology with promising results and outcomes. My Delegation is pleased to announce its effective contribution to the Committee's SPIDER program and is prepared to establish the Regional Coordination and Communication Office and in organization of regional workshops and seminars as required. Also it is worth mentioning that in the regional scope, we follow the efforts of establishing suitable body in Iran that is the "Center for Informed Disaster Management".

Mr. Chairman:

Regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Third International Conference on Space Applications (UNISPACE III), we as ever before fully support the implementation of the recommendations and are ready step forward based on our capabilities and potentials in this regard. We continue to support the work of the Action Teams established by COPUOS members for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. Wide participation and co-chairing the Action Team on Developing a Worldwide Strategy on Environmental Monitoring is a part of the contribution of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this connection. This is also further continued by the contribution and participation in the activities of the working group on Disaster Management, in particular the DMISCO program that is now active under SPIDER project. Moreover, in capacity building and public awareness a wealth of efforts is being carried out almost all in care of the Iranian Space Agency. The Agency contributes widely in promoting space science and technology applications in public particularly among young generation. Capacity building in public domain as well as specialized domain is also followed up by the Agency. It provides good support to the academic sector in setting up university courses, workshops and seminars. World Space Week occasion is also celebrated broadly supported and coordinated by the Iranian Space Agency.

Mr. Chairman:

On the subject of mutual cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), it is worth to mention that from 22nd to 23rd of November 2005, Dr. Alice Lee, the Chief of the Space Application Program of OOSA visited Iran to negotiate the ways and means of cooperation between OOSA and Iran on telehealth using space technology. In course of the visit a one-day seminar on telehealth was hosted by the Iranian Space Agency and supported by the Ministry of Hygiene and Medical Education and the participation of the OOSA's representative. A variety of participants including scholars, students and experts

working in relevant fields attended the seminar. In a meeting with the decision makers of hygiene of Iran in the Academy of Medical Sciences the representative of OOSA also negotiated the means and ways of establishing a telehealth system in Iran.

Mr. Chairman:

On the agenda item 11 "Space and Society" we still hold the idea that such a broad term could be used more widely, clearly wider than just the Education. We believe that this matter would be better to be referred to a task force for consideration and as suggested before the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared and pleased to participate in such a task force for defining the subtitles under space and society.

Mr. Chairman:

We believe that fresh water resources are of great importance to humankind and its management and control for efficiently benefiting of it using space technology is a vital issue with promising results. In the Islamic Republic of Iran some significant projects have been carried out on water resources management using space technology. We are ready to share our experience in this connection with interested bodies and organizations throughout the world to stimulate international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman:

Considering the role of space law as a prerequisite for international cooperation and activities, we follow up the current of the activities in this connection particularly the results and outcomes of the Legal Sub-Committee of COPUOS. We are prepared to be further involved with this very important issue. In this connection, the Iranian Space Agency has established a committee to develop a core for this subject. The committee is expected to play a pivotal role in promoting attention to this issue in Iran. We recently communicated with OOSA concerning holding a Workshop on space law in 2007 and also submitted our request accordingly. We hope that through the support from OOSA we will be able to organize such a Workshop as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman:

The last but not the least, regarding the work and effectiveness of this Committee itself, my delegation believes that it is now the high time to redesign the structure and to reinforce COPUOS authorities to deal with 50 years of progress in outer space science and technology and the impact of this progress on quality of life and mankind's destination. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a model of an organization with relevant authorities. As we have announced before the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the founders of the Committee is prepared to participate in a study group in this regard.

Finally **Mr. Chairman**, I wish to conclude my comments by reiterating the hope that we all succeed in demonstrating that space is a mankind asset with great potential to benefit all human beings regardless of their technical capabilities. There is no reason why it should not be so if we all use outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you

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