
STATEMENT BY MR. ADHI SANKAR, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 50 –
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE IN THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL & DECOLONIZATION [FOURTH]
COMMITTEE OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
OCTOBER 13, 2010

Mr. Chairman

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the Sixty Fifth Session of the General Assembly and also the members of the Bureau on their election. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser for the way he conducted the work of this committee during the 64th session. I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support during this 65th session of the UN General Assembly.



The Indian Delegation notes with appreciation that UN-COPUOS, under the mandate of General Assembly, has been contributing significantly towards capacity building for sustainable development, strengthening the international co-operation to utilise outer space for peaceful purposes towards serving the humanity. We are pleased to note the substantial progress made during the 53rd session of UN-COPUOS, under the able chairmanship of Mr Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu of Romania.

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 47th session and the Legal Sub-committee at its 49th session.

Mr. Chairman

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

In its fifteenth successive successful flight, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) named PSLV C-14, placed OCEANSAT-2 and other six international nano-satellites in orbit on September 23, 2009. OCEANSAT-2, the successor of 11 year old operational OCEANSAT-1, carries Ocean Colour Monitor, Scatterometer and Atmospheric Sounder from Italy. Noting the increased global demand for the data from Scatterometer, India has consented to share the data with international space agencies for their operational applications.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian delegation is proud to report that India's Chandrayaan-1 with many international payloads including that from USA, was instrumental in conclusively establishing the presence of water and hydroxyl molecules on the lunar surface.

India has performed a unique joint experiment, known as Bi-Static Experiment involving Chandrayaan-1 and NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft on August 21, 2009, for obtaining additional information on the possibility of existence of ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the North Pole of the Moon. Additionally, the analysis of data obtained by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (Mini-SAR) onboard Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft has provided evidence for the presence of ice deposits near the Moon's North Pole.

The longest annular solar eclipse of the millennium which occurred on January 15, 2010 was studied through successful launch of eleven Indian Rohini Sounding Rockets during a short period of two days.

On July 12, 2010, PSLV, in its sixteenth successive successful flight named PSLV C-15, placed CARTOSAT 2B and four auxiliary satellites namely STUDSAT from Indian students, ALSAT-2A from Algeria and NLS 6.1 and NLS 6.2 from Canada into their respective orbits.

Mr. Chairman

In the coming months, ISRO aims to augment India's constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites. Currently, India is getting ready for launch of RESOURCESAT-2 and Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1) for natural resources management; and ISRO-CNES joint mission MEGHA TROPiques for tropical atmospheric studies and SARAL for studying Ocean surface. Additionally, YOUTHSAT, a small satellite built with participation of Moscow State University, X-SAT, built with participation of NTU of Singapore and SAPPiRE from Canada are scheduled to be launched as co-passengers in these flights. GSAT-5P, GSAT-12 and GSAT-8 are the communication satellites to be launched in coming months.

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

Mr. Chairman

The emphasis of Indian space programme has always been on integrating the advances in space technology and applications with the national developmental goals, particularly in vital service areas such as telecommunication, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning, as well as natural resources survey and management. ANTRIX Corporation of ISRO has been conferred with the Globe Sustainability Research Award 2010 by the Globe Forum, Stockholm, Sweden. This recognition is for demonstrating the use of space technology and Information Technology solutions to effectively reach out to grass root levels.

Mr. Chairman

India places considerable importance on International Cooperation in space activities, mainly in taking up new scientific and technological challenges, defining international

frameworks for exploitation and utilisation of outer space for peaceful purposes. Recently it has entered into agreements with Argentina, Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia for peaceful uses of Outer Space.

India is establishing a user terminal in Papua New Guinea to receive multispectral Earth observation data from India's IMS-1 satellite, to support its initiative of using space technology for developmental purpose. India is actively participating in the initiatives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) including Sentinel Asia project and STAR– Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region programme and sharing our data and expertise for the benefit of this region. The Indian delegation is happy to inform that India hosted the Secretariat for the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and has contributed significantly to support disaster assessment and relief activities in different parts of the world.

Under the STORM programme of SAARC, India is providing a Doppler Weather Radar to its Member countries. India is also committed to sharing the data obtained from its IRS satellites with the ASEAN countries for disaster management support. India has recently made an arrangement with Brazil for providing the RESOURCESAT-1 data.

Mr. Chairman

India is actively participating in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and pursuing 10-year implementation (2005-2015) plan in various societal benefit areas. India is also hosting the Secretariat for Global Agricultural Monitoring System of Systems (GLAMSS) of GEOSS.

The Indian delegation is happy to inform that India will take up the Chair of Committee for Earth Observation System (CEOS) for 2012 and host the Plenary. India actively supports space based virtual constellation on satellites for various themes by committing its satellites and data products.

During March 9-12, 2010, India has conducted 28th Meeting of the Inter-agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, wherein 86 delegates from 10 space agencies deliberated on this important topic endangering the global space assets and activities.

Mr. Chairman

India continues to provide expertise and services for supporting the developing countries in the application of Space technology through capacity building. The Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and Pacific Region, affiliated to UN and operating from India, has so far benefitted 894 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia-pacific region and 28 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia-pacific region. India would like to request more participation from the member countries.

Mr. Chairman

The Indian space programme is entering into space exploration phase mainly to explore the Sun, inner solar system and build such capabilities for exploring outer solar system. Aditya-1, a project to study the solar chromosphere, is being taken up by ISRO along with leading science laboratories of India.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, the Indian delegation is pleased to greatly acknowledge and fully support UNCOPUOS in all its endeavours to increase the awareness of space-based benefits and to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

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