

Statement by

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Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations**

Before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

At the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

*On the International Cooperation in the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space (Item 49)*

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**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,**

The General Assembly's annual meetings and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space meetings held in Vienna, represent a significant platform to exchange views and mobilize more support to enhance the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes and the achievement of sustainable development.

It is of paramount importance to create a universal understanding on the safe and responsible conduct of space activities and applications. Jordan stresses that the outer space should only be maintained for peaceful uses and the development of space-based technology in order to contribute to advancing economies and peoples' quality of life. To that end, regional and international cooperation should be strengthened to implement the goals of the post-2015 development agenda, including the United Nations Programmes on Space Scientific and Technological Applications and the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Application.

States activities in space have remarkably increased in the last decade, which highlights the need for further coordination and regulatory framework of these activities, taking into consideration states sovereignty and boundary between their airspace and outer space to avoid disputes among them. We should ensure the application of norms and international laws that are relevant to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. We also should not separate outer space from disarmament issues but prohibit its use for military purposes. In this regard, Jordan supports the views calling for setting up binding international legal instruments to ensure that outer space is used peacefully. These uses may range from enhancing peace on earth to tackling the challenges of our time like water resources management, climate change, health and food security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Jordan has noted with great interest the report of the 57th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of which Jordan is a member. We support the Committee's work and commend its efforts to promote an international consensus on the peaceful use of space. Jordan will also pursue a closer coordination with other countries to promote peaceful uses of outer space and develop our capacity

building, including our space capabilities, disaster management and emergency response. It is important to grant all countries equal and indiscriminate access to outer space for peaceful purposes, which is an ethical and legal right that should be respected. On the other hand, states should take the responsibility of space activities, carried out by their governmental and non-governmental entities, which should be beneficial to all humankind and in conformity with the United Nations principles of peace and security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The number of countries and organizations that engaged in this issue has increased in recent years. Therefore, it is important to collaborate efforts and to have better communication and interaction to bridge the knowledge and expertise gap between emerging space countries and developed countries in this field. To ensure an active contribution from the developing countries to the peaceful use of space, assistance should be extended to these countries to enhance their technical capacities, with due regard to their needs and interests.

Jordan has achieved significant strides in benefitting from the advances in space science, and established in 2012 the United Nations Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East region. This Center aims at developing the knowledge and skills of scientists, academics and students in space technology, who can contribute to the local and regional development of their countries. The Center also provides training courses and grants Master Degrees in the areas of remote sensing, satellite communications, astronomy and meteorology.

Jordan shares the common interest of many countries all around the world in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and promotion of space data and applications in advancing socioeconomic development, which we believe it would contribute to the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic and scientific development.

**Thank you.**