

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(check against delivery)

**Statement by Mr. Hossein Maleki,
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
on the agenda item 49: “International cooperation in the
peaceful uses of outer space”
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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In the Name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Since it is the first time that I am taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the Chairman of this important Committee. My delegation commends you for the manner you have been conducting our deliberation, We are confident that under your able leadership the 4th Committee will achieve its lofty goals of increasing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as, total elimination of colonialism and occupation

I assure you of my delegation’s unalloyed support in the course of the deliberations. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Director and the staff of the UNOOSA for their efforts to further promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

As one of the 24 founding members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1958, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches high importance to this issue and stands ready to continue its contribution actively in this regard. My delegation holds firm belief that the outer space, as the province of all mankind, should be kept open to all States for peaceful purposes and all countries should be able to benefit from its potentials on equal basis. Therefore, recommendations and regulations should avoid any measures that would limit access to outer space by developing countries with emerging space capabilities.

The I. R. of Iran emphasizes that all countries should hold responsibility of keeping the outer space free from any arms race and preventing any misuse of outer space. Iran spares no effort to fulfill this goal.

There is no doubt that weaponization of outer space constitutes a major threat to all mankind, given the fact that it would finally lead to an arms race similar to what we are witnessing on the Planet Earth. Therefore, all efforts should be made in order to ensure that use of outer space is solely for the purposes of the well-being and prosperity for all nations..

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind the importance of sustainable development and its requirements, the contributions of space activities for sustainable development should be duly considered in the post 2015 Development Agenda. We, therefore, emphasize that any form of Code of Conducts for outer space activities should be of a comprehensive and peaceful nature within the United Nations legal framework with full contribution of Member States.

We would like to reiterate our position on Geostationary orbit as a limited source and underscore that the utilization of this orbit spectrum must be rationalized and extended to all States equally, taking into account the geographical location of certain countries in compliance with the established principles in the normative framework and in accordance with the decisions made by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant bodies of the UN system.

With regard to the Space-System-Based Disaster Management Support (UN-SPIDER), the Islamic Republic of Iran as a disaster prone country, which faces a particularly hazardous situation resulting from various types of natural disasters, realizes considerable merit in the UN-SPIDER program in addressing disaster management. We would like to express satisfaction over the progressive trend of implementation of UN-SPIDER programs. In this regard, Iran's Regional Support Office is an active partner in the region to implement UN-SPIDER programs and supports its progressive works.

Mr. Chairman,

Based on its own capability and indigenous knowledge, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made remarkable advancements in space science and technology by successfully placing its first domestically made data-processing satellite (i.e. Omid Satellite) into a low Earth orbit on 2 February 2009. The Satellite was launched to meet the needs of the country and was purely for peaceful purposes. Iran has also successfully launched a live animal into space for the second time on December 14, 2013, returning it safely to Earth after a 15-minute rocket ride.

The Government of the I. R. of Iran is determined to continue its advancement in the area of outer space on the basis of national capabilities and merely for peaceful purposes, and stands ready to contribute to promoting international cooperation in the field of space science and technology.

Thank you Mr. Chairman