



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**MR A.A BOSAH, MINISTER
PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UN
ON AGENDA ITEM: 49**

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE**

**AT THE
69TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation congratulates you once again on your election to preside over the work of the Committee for the 69th session, and we thank you for giving us the floor to address the Committee on this important topic. We assure you of Nigeria's continued support as you conduct the affairs of the Committee.

2. We also wish to express appreciation for the insightful presentations by the Director of the UN office for Outer Space, and the Chief, Policy Analysis Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development at the outset of this meeting, on the ways and manner space technology can assist the realization of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman

3. Space activities are becoming increasingly central to the lives of global citizens. Indeed, meeting our developmental goals and the rising challenges brought about by climate change, visible in our shrinking forests, falling water tables, collapsing fisheries and diminishing species, including food insecurity call for innovative measures. The advancement in space technology affords us such innovations. This should spur our resolve to strengthen cooperation in space exploration for the benefit of mankind and our co-existence.

4. Nigeria is committed in its resolve to engage with private, regional and international space faring entities in efforts and activities that are geared towards and, promote the peaceful uses of outer space. This informs Nigeria's dedication to the objectives of the African Resource and Environmental Monitoring Satellite Constellation in assisting with the provision of easy access to satellite data for end users in disaster management, food security, public health, infrastructure, land use and water resource management.

5. Nigeria's space programme is geared towards achieving sustainable national development including the understanding of our environment.

Nigeria's National Space Agency (NASRDA) was established to pursue the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the nation. Indeed, the launch of Nigeria's first satellite (Nigeria- Sat-1) in September 2003 is viewed as the achievement of an essential tool for socio-economic development. The National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI) coordinated by the National Space Agency was created to facilitate efficient production, management, dissemination and use of geospatial information for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Chairman

6. We have read with immense interest the comprehensive report of the chair of the Committee on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) contained in document A/69/20. We commend the work of the Committee and wish to underscore the import of the recommendation regarding equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space for all States for the improvement of living conditions, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical and economic development. This will require the development and implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures that will serve the achievement of this objective.

7. Nigeria holds the conviction that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and attaches utmost importance to efforts at preventing an arms race in outer space. We endorse the development of an international code of conduct to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and to regulate the increasing human activities in outer space.

8. I thank you.