



STATEMENT BY MR. TARIQ ANWAR, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM 28: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION [4TH] COMMITTEE OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 14, 2008



Mr. Chairman

We are pleased to see you chair our discussions on international cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are also happy that the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space has been contributing a lot towards capacity building for sustainable development and strengthening international co-operation for a peaceful outer space. We are pleased that much progress was made during the 51st session, under the chairmanship of Colombia.

Mr. Chairman

Indian Remote Sensing imagery and support services were made available for post-disaster relief operations after the major cyclone and earthquake that recently struck Myanmar and China respectively. Moreover, as a Member of the "International Charter on Space and Major Disasters", the Indian Space Research Organisation

[ISRO] took an active part in the activities of the Charter in providing remote sensing data and assessment support to the countries concerned.

Mr. Chairman

During January 2008, the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched a commercial satellite for an international customer. In April 2008, ten satellites consisting of two national primary satellites CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 and eight nano satellites were carried on-board PSLV-C9. In coming years we plan to also provide such opportunities on Indian launchers for student and scientific communities from developing countries.

Mr. Chairman

In the area of Space Application, many programmes have been implemented. In an effort to provide support to quality education across India, more than 33,000 EDUSAT classrooms have been established. Tele-education networks have benefited students from all over the country.

The telemedicine network is being expanded with a view to making expert medical consultancy in cities available to patients in remote areas. Today it consists of 320 hospitals, of which 270 hospitals are at remote/rural/district levels, connected to 42 Super Specialty hospitals in major cities. More than 500,000 people have been benefited from it.

The Village Resource Centres undertaken by ISRO, for providing space-enabled services, has also proved to be an effective tool. It has acted as a single window delivery mechanism for space based products and services. These include tele-education, tele-medicine, information on natural resources for planning and development at local level, advisories on agriculture, fisheries, land and water resources management, livestock management, etc. Today, over 400 Village Resource Centres have been established across India, providing valuable inputs to the local community.

Mr. Chairman

India's first unmanned scientific mission to the moon, CHANDRAYAAN-1, is to be launched in the next few days. It is an example of how scientists from different countries can share their expertise for the benefit of humankind. CHANDRAYAAN-1 will also carry scientific instruments for USA, the European Space Agency, and Bulgaria, besides India. The data generated on the characteristics of the moon should benefit scientists across the world.

On November 12, 2007, ISRO and its Russian counterpart signed an Agreement on joint lunar research and exploration. It will lead to CHANDRAYAAN-2, a joint lunar mission involving a lunar orbiting spacecraft and a lunar vehicle on the Moon's surface.

As part of Indo-French co-operation, ISRO is jointly building a satellite called MEGHA-TROPIQUES, primarily to carry out meteorological observations in the tropical region. It is to be launched in 2009. The data generated by it will play a

significant role in establishing a global data bank for addressing issues related to weather and climate change.

Mr. Chairman

ISRO takes a special interest in capacity building and services for assisting developing countries in the application of space technology. The Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and Pacific Region, operating from India, has so far conducted 26 postgraduate programmes and 19 short-term courses and workshops. 726 scholars from 30 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and 26 scholars from 16 countries outside that region have benefited from it.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, I would reiterate India's commitment to the use of Outer Space for peaceful purposes in the common interest of humankind.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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