



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA**

**AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 49: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

NEW YORK, 01 NOVEMBER 2019

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in this meeting, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Fourth Committee, as well as the members of the Bureau. Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Over the years, space science and technology has developed rapidly, and now plays an integral part in enhancing security as well as economic and social wellbeing. Recognising the importance of outer space, many States, including Malaysia, have embarked on national space programmes to harness its immense benefits.

3. As more and more States undertake outer space exploration programmes, it is also imperative that we maintain the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. Malaysia recognises the important role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in this regard. We welcome the adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities during the recent 62nd Session of COPUOS from 12-21 June 2019. It is our hope that the guidelines will further improve governance with regard to outer space activities.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia recognises the importance of the space sector as a strategic asset for States in increasing competitiveness and enhancing sovereignty. In this regard, the Government of Malaysia adopted its National Space Policy 2030 in 2017 to accelerate the development of our national space ecosystem.

5. This policy serves as a framework in the development of Malaysia's national space sector, by clearly outlining our stance and goals as well as specifying the coordination steps that need to be undertaken with the various stakeholders towards achieving those objectives. There are five major thrusts to the National Space Policy 2030, namely:

5.1 Reinforcing governance in optimising access to space capabilities;

- 5.2 Focusing on significant technologies, infrastructures and space applications;
- 5.3 Accelerating the development of space science and technology as well as the development of the necessary expertise;
- 5.4 Contributing to the economy and wellbeing of the nation; and
- 5.5 Increasing and strengthening international cooperation and networks.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In improving our governance of space activities, consistent with the first thrust of our National Space Policy 2030, the Malaysian Government has approved the merger of our two space-related agencies, the National Space Agency (ANGKASA) and the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency (MRSA), to form the Malaysian Space Agency or MYSA, in February 2019. The Agency has three main objectives, namely:

- 6.1 To ensure availability and encourage the comprehensive use of satellite data by government agencies for effective governance in food security, natural resources, environment and climate change management, disaster management and national security;

6.2 Facilitate data sharing with researchers and the private sector to catalyse the development of intellectual property as well as economic growth; and

6.3 Increasing the rate of utility of existing space infrastructure.

7. In line with General Assembly Resolution 68/74 on Recommendations on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, and Thrust Five of our National Space Policy 2030, Malaysia is in the process of enacting national space legislation to regulate space activities in Malaysia, which we endeavour to be passed by our Parliament by the end of 2020. Once this legislation is gazetted into Federal Law, Malaysia will then proceed to ratify and accede to the relevant space-related international instruments, amongst others the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to which we are a signatory to.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia remains convinced that international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space is the best way forward for the good of humankind and the world. It also helps States, especially developing ones, in tapping into the boundless potential of outer space. In this regard, we welcome opportunities to collaborate with other States, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in developing our capabilities in the space sector. We look forward to working together with partners who are interested in developing technology transfer, science missions and training programmes in space-related fields.

9. Malaysia is honoured to host the 39th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS 2018) in October last year, which was attended by more than 800 participants from States in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference, in our view, served as a platform for discussion on latest research findings and advances in remote sensing, sharing of knowledge and promoting cooperation and understanding amongst States in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The protection of outer space and prevention of its militarisation is in the common interest of all mankind. It is imperative that we continue to work collaboratively in ensuring that outer space remains exclusively for peaceful purposes, which would contribute significantly to our collective security, wellbeing and prosperity.

I thank you.