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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE  
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**72<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA ITEM 52:  
“International Cooperation in the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space”**

**NEW YORK  
11 October 2017**

Mr Chairperson,

1. It gives me great pleasure to address the Fourth Committee as we remember and celebrate the great achievement in scientific advancement represented sixty years ago on 4 October 1957, by the launch and spaceflight by the Soviet Union, of the first man-made satellite, Sputnik 1.
2. Namibia continues to support the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government Assembly, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016 within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063. Namibia also associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement presented by the Representative of Venezuela.
3. Namibia would also like to thank Canada for the work done particularly in its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the same vein, we support the draft resolution on this agenda item (52).
4. Namibia supports the call for a regulation of space debris through a Register of Objects launched into space and thus supports the Committee as the appropriate forum for discussions on this matter.

Mr Chairperson,

5. We live on a beautiful planet, one which could be even better if we would focus our efforts on the common interests of humankind. The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies adopted in 1966, continues to be of utmost significance in this regard. Indeed, today more than ever, the language of peace and cooperation is essential as our technological advances allow us access to areas never before imagined.
6. In the last report of April 2017, the potentially devastating effects on our global communications systems due to weather was highlighted. We must also recognise the interconnected impact of global weather patterns, not only in terms of storms which respect no borders, but also in terms of disasters.

7. It is here that outer space technology has many important and positive uses. Some of these include risk management in the field of epidemiology surveillance, which can be important for reducing the impact of tropical diseases.
8. As a country with two large deserts which is prone to both droughts and floods, Namibia is also keen to utilise technology in all available forms to address the risks we face for desertification. Climate change and its impact on rising oceans is another risk factor in which Namibia could benefit from outer space technology. Some other important areas of relevant technology include spatial planning, agricultural planning and crop monitoring; water resource management; adaptation and mitigation; rural and urban planning; disaster management and response; global navigation, and telecommunications.
9. As a developing country, Mr Chairperson, Namibia seeks to ensure that space science and technology applications would be focused on meeting the objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Mr Chairperson,

10. Space tools are an important means of implementation of development objectives and goals. Access to information and the ability to use data and to share knowledge both through relevant offices and through the development of educational linkages in this important area to support decision making at all levels is absolutely fundamental. It is important that developing countries develop research, produce and participate in the development of technology for the peaceful use of outer space.
11. Allow me to underscore our need to protect our environment, whether on the ground or in outer space. Let us work to prevent weaponisation of outer space, allowing only and strictly its use for peace and to improve living conditions of all peoples and through international cooperation in the development of space activities.

I thank you.