

Madame Chair,

First of all, on behalf of Polish Delegation, I would like to congratulate you with your election to the Chair of this Committee. I deeply believe that your knowledge, experience and leadership will contribute to the success of this meeting.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Polish interest in Space Exploration can be dated as early as 1954, when Polish Astronautical Society was admitted to the International Astronautical Federation. Poland is also Member of UNCOPUOS from the very beginning and played important role in the work on this Committee. I should mention leading contribution of Professor Manfred Lachs, from Warsaw University, on preparation and endorsement of the UN Outer Space Law.

At the beginning of Space Era, Poland organized two important World events. In 1963 COSPAR General Assembly was held in Warsaw and next year, 1964, International Astronautical Congress was also held in Warsaw. More recently at the Warsaw University of Technology COSPAR 2000 General Assembly gathered nearly 2000 participants and we are now applying to held in Poland future meeting of COSPAR as well as International Astronautical Congress.

Soon after beginning of Space Era we have been involved in designing and launching of more than 200 sounding rockets "Meteor", from which one reached Von Karman limit of Space. Poland already participated in 80 space missions including instrumentation built by the Institute of Aviation in early seventies of last century, including radio-spectrograph on board of Intercosmos Kopernik-500, launched on the occasion of the 500 Anniversary of birth of famous Polish Astronomer – Mikołaj Kopernik. Many other instruments, which were built by the Center of Space Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, on board of international spacecrafts are on orbits of Venus, Mars or on surface of Saturn's moon Titan and on comet Czuriumow-Gierasimienko.

40 years ago, Polish cosmonaut Mirosław Hermaszewski, conducted medical and material science experiments and Earth's observation during his flight on board of Salut-6 space station. So Poland become the fourth nation, after Soviet Union, USA and Czechoslovakia whose citizen was sent into Space.

Two Polish satellites of BRITE Constellation, LEM and Heweliusz together with similar satellites build by Austria and Canada, are studying dynamics of bright stars and soon second Polish students CubeSat "PW-Sat2" will be send to orbit to study techniques of deorbitation of satellites. Institute of Aviation in Poland is also leading in development of a new green propellant and rockets engines for small satellites and small rocket launchers.

Madame Chair, Distinguish Delegates,

COPUOS remains at the core of the world's space international activities and cooperation, including the reflection on the international space law. As it was stated on several occasions our country attaches great importance to the international space law and is strongly

committed to further increasing its involvement in outer space activities in strict compliance with it.

The recent 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee, held under leadership of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal, devoted its considerable time to facilitate the negotiations on the draft resolution “Fiftieth anniversary of the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Use of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development”. The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space made significant progress on the draft, which enabled the intersessional meeting in May to finalize the text that has been endorsed yesterday.

At the same time, the Legal Subcommittee focused its work on the important issues that remain on its ordinary agenda. My delegation would like to stress that it is crucial that the COPUOS, through its Legal Subcommittee working in close interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continue to study effectively the nature of legal problems which may arise from the exploration of outer space. This is the role the COPUOS has to play in light of its founding resolution of the United Nations General Assembly from 1958.

This body indeed became the exclusive and unique forum with regard to the discussion of possible gaps resulting from the technological progress in space activities and to propose international instruments relating to the co-operation in outer space to fill these gaps. The legislative heritage of COPUOS and the significance of its activities in the area of promoting compliance with and strengthening international space law, remains our primary task.

The increase of activities in outer space, the initiatives undertaken by countries and other stakeholders related to the outer space, including those to discuss selected legal issues, prove once again that COPUOS has to look more into the future in order not to lag behind the events and developments.

Madame Chair, Distinguish Delegates,

In November 2012, Poland joined the European Space Agency. Today, from the perspective of over 5 years, it can be stated that the decision taken at that time was a good decision. The government administration has "opened the door" for the Polish space sector to develop through participation in ESA tenders. In the world and in Europe, and increasingly in Poland, the fact that the company has documented experience in space activities, for example in the European Space Agency projects, is a kind of "quality certificate" confirming the credibility of the potential partner and its technological competence.

Polish entities are involved in the European Union's scientific and research programs related to space. We are also a member of EUMETSAT (European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) and ESO (European Southern Observatory).

Poland has a scientific and industrial potential and constantly growing experience that enables it to be involved in this innovative activity. The equipment developed for space missions needs to be reliable, light and energy-saving due to limited energy available on the satellite. The space sector stimulates the development of new materials and technologies, introduces new forms of work organization and quality control. In addition, innovations

implemented in the space sector are used in other areas to increase their competitiveness. All this makes the space sector, which is one of the most modern and technologically advanced industries, of growing importance for the European and world economy.

The Polish Space Strategy adopted in 2017 takes into account the obligations resulting from Poland's membership in ESA, NATO and the European Union. The implementation of the National Space Program, being currently developed by the Polish Space Agency, will certainly have an impact on Polish companies and on the opportunities of international cooperation in the space sector.

Madame Chair, Distinguish Delegates,

The beginning of 2018 was the period of big changes in the Polish Space Agency, also called POLSA. After Dr. Grzegorz Brona has been elected as the new president of POLSA the main priority of the Agency has become support of development of the Polish space industry.

The support of internalization of Polish space sector was also provided by participation of the president of POLSA in mission of Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology to Israel and will be continued during the mission to Ukraine in September, this year.

POLSA is supporting the international cooperation not only in the field of industry and technology, but also in the field of humanities like space law. Cooperating with Polish universities and scientific institutes (like the Polish Centre for Space Law of Manfred Lachs established in 2017 in the University of Warsaw) POLSA is planning to organize lectures and symposia regarding space law and other space-related sciences.

In the recent twelve months the Polish Space Agency took concrete actions towards becoming a new member of IAF, which organizes every year “International Astronautical Congress” – the most important conference on the global space landscape. The application form to IAF has been sent by POLSA in the last quarter of 2017. It is expected that during the next conference (IAC) in Bremen, Germany, in October 2018, the General Assembly of IAF will vote for the enlargement of this institution. Thus, Polish Space Agency will become officially a new member of the organization, and through this Poland will soon have 3 members in this Federation.

During the last months POLSA continued activities aimed at supporting and strengthening the competitiveness of Polish space industry. POLSA, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken in the recent 12 months the concrete actions on the European market (economic mission, bilateral talks, industry days) aiming at industrial cooperation between Polish entities and future partners from such countries like for instance: Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, or Greece. Nowadays, POLSA is preparing the analysis which will enable the Agency to establish closer relations with countries of Central Europe. The strategy aimed to achieve this goal will be started in 2019.

Madame Chair, Distinguish Delegates, Thank you very much for your attention.

Piotr Wolański

Chairman of the Polish Delegation