***Delegation from Represented by***

**South Korea John Abbott College**

**UNOOSA-ICAO**

The vast expanses lying beyond our atmosphere represent the final frontier of human exploration. The potential of outer space for scientific and economic opportunities is seemingly unlimited, as we know so little about all that it contains. It is for these reasons that South Korea founded the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) in 1989 affiliated to the Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials (KIMM)[[1]](#footnote-1). Since its inception, KARI has grown by leaps and bounds, pushing the boundaries of science and technology in aerospace. Our first satellite, KOMPSAT-1, or *Arirang-1*, was launched into orbit in 1999 aboard an American rocket[[2]](#footnote-2). In 2008, South Korea sent its first astronaut into orbit, thus procuring our space program international recognition. The launch of KOMSPAT-5 in 2013 marked a significant milestone in South Korea’s history in space technology, as it was launched from a rocket of our own design, from our own soil[[3]](#footnote-3). Today, we are working towards developing more modern rockets, such as KSLV-II, which has been in development since 2015. South Korea is committed to developing our space program, with the goal of becoming a major player in space, as evidenced by our passing of the Space Development Act of 2005.[[4]](#footnote-4)

With regards to international space law, South Korea signed and ratified the “Outer Space Treaty” of 1967 that same year, reflecting our desire for the scientific and peaceful usage of space. However, the Republic of Korea realizes that such an endeavor cannot be achieved solely on its own. This is why we are currently advocating the creation of an Asian Space Agency for “strengthening cooperation within the Asian space community towards joint undertakings.”[[5]](#footnote-5) Furthermore, although South Korea is against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, we recognize that ASAT (anti-satellite technologies) do have their benefits. As the international community is aware, our neighbor to the north, the DPRK, is making great strides with their clandestine nuclear program, which makes us weary and ready to do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of our citizens. With regards to the pollution and presence of debris, the Republic of Korea believes that all necessary steps should be taken to develop cleaner and less destructive technologies for space launches, as this would prove greatly advantageous to all space exploring nations. As for space commercialization, South Korea maintains a firm belief in the economic potential of outer space. As a great exporting nation, the resources needed to keep our industrial output high could very well be found in the thousands of asteroids that pass by our planet each year.

1. KARI, “About KARI- History”, *Korea Aerospace Research Insitute*, 5 November 2016, https://www.kari.re.kr/eng/sub01\_04.do [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Doo Huan, Kim, “Space Law and Policy in the Republic of Korea”, *UNOOSA*, 5 November 2016, http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/pres/2010/SLW2010/02-09.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)