



CANEUS STATEMENT

66th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, June 2, 2023

Agenda Item 8: Space and sustainable development

“G20 Global Space cooperation for sustainable development”

By
Milind Pimprikar, Chairman CANEUS and
Lead

G20-B20 Sub-Group Task Force on Space Applications for Agriculture and Water Conservation

Mr Chair, and Distinguished Delegates,

CANEUS is pleased to update this committee on our recent initiatives addressing Space and sustainable development, the lessons learned, and the important opportunities to advance the Space cooperation on Agriculture and Water Conservation for sustainable development.

CANEUS played a major role in the recently held once-in-a-decade UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) on March 5-9, 2023, the first UN water conference in a generation held on March 22-24, 2023, as well the UN-Ocean conference, UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the COP15-UN Biodiversity Summit held during 2022.

These initiatives contributed significantly to advance Space and sustainable development.

Mr Chair,

You may recall from my technical presentation on May 31st, to develop an **overarching Vision** to “**Make Earth Observation have Daily Impact on Every aspect of sustainable development - society, biosphere and economy**”, as part of the G20-B20 Task Force on Space Applications for Agriculture and Water Conservation.

Mr Chair,

Partnership and global space collaborations are critical to achieving this vision. For example, Freely **Available Earth Observation Data and Insights** holds potential to have daily impact on multiple global business verticals, particularly Agriculture and Water Conservation.

Thus far, in the 50 years of existence of Earth Observation Satellites, the data and information from these satellites have limited **impact on daily decision making in multiple global business verticals** primarily for two reasons:

- a. High Latency or Latency in getting Actionable and Timely Information in the hands of Decision Makers
- b. Lack of Complexity of Information to match the Complexity of Daily Decisions and thereby Minimize Error (False Positives and False Negatives).



Mr Chair,

We believe that the G20 Global Space cooperation can help address these tremendous Challenges by providing timely, high-complexity, Actionable Earth Observation Data, and Information at the appropriate spatial, spectral, and temporal resolutions, through multi-lateral collaborations between governments and private industries for global impact on a daily basis.

The focus of the collaboration needs on **Data Democratization** and thereby make Earth Observation remote-sensing data freely available to the last mile users As evidenced by the free distribution of NASA's Landsat and ESA's Sentinel data, and the Indian Space Policy 2023 presented earlier today, the numbers of applications are literally exploding globally thanks to their Open-Source Model.

Such an **Open-Source Model** can only be implemented through **Public/Private Partnerships**, which are critically needed to drive the development of thriving Agricultural and Water Conservation Ecosystems deriving innumerable, innovative insights from these data sets.

Subsequently, based on the Freely Available Insights, **Training and Capacity Building** programs can be rolled out to increase awareness among Agricultural and Water Conservation stakeholders.

Mr. Chair,

India's G20 Presidency offers a unique opportunity to realize this vision to **Make Earth Observation remote sensing data freely accessible** to support Every aspect of sustainable development, with meaningful actions such as

1. **Initiate Collaborative Pilot Projects** aimed at building open repositories of data & insights based on Earth Observation remote sensing data.
2. **Develop Innovative, Data and Information Exploitation Use Cases** Relevant to Agriculture and Water Conservation.
3. **Implement High-Performance Edge Computing Solutions** to reduce data latency and prioritize the delivery of Actionable Information Targeted Precisely for Region-Specific Agriculture and Water Conservation efforts.
4. **Evaluate and enable regulatory frameworks** that foster innovation and policies for sustainable solutions and mitigate barriers preventing open cross-border collaborations.

Mr. Chair,

These Actionable Recommendations are expected to enhance agricultural productivity, improve water management, strengthen capacity for space technology, improve food security, and reduce environmental impact. We very much encourage COPUOS to engage and leverage G20 space cooperation.

Thank you.