

United Kingdom, Item 7

UK Statement on Disaster Management support at the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS

Chair, Thank you for giving me the floor,

The United Kingdom would now like to address the committee on the subject of Disaster Management and support.

The United Kingdom reports that, following its Leadership of the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters, in October 2023 the UK Space Agency successfully transferred leadership of the Charter to EUMETSAT and the Canadian Space Agency. In 2023 the Disasters Charter supported national and United Nations emergency management authorities with earth observation data, processing, and mapping for sixty-three (63) disasters and emergencies, the highest number of activations in a single year to date. The Charter is an ongoing example of using our satellites together for good and via the universal access programme, the Charter is available to any nationally mandated disaster management authority.

The United Kingdom continues its work with partner organisations and specialised bodies. In 2025 the United Kingdom will Chair the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). At the same time the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) will Chair the Disasters working group. We look forward to working with our UN and Space agency colleague in CEOS, the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), and other organisations to move forward the development and use of space for disaster risk reduction.

Earth Observation is a priority for the UK Space Agency as demonstrated by our renewed participation in the European Union (EU) Copernicus programme from 1st January 2024. We continue to fund and collaborate on delivering projects and missions through the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as bilateral missions and national programmes. These activities range from technology innovation and building missions - to applications, and the use of Earth Observation and other tools for decision making, using vital climate data to support mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

The United Kingdom's expertise in earth observation, weather, and climate from satellites is used to inform positive action and support the development of global policy and interoperability. The United Kingdom is seeking innovation and cooperation in pursuing the development and adoption of internationally agreed standards for satellite-derived methane data in support of 'keeping 1.5 alive'.

The United Kingdom's Met Office also continues to be a leading Member of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and are instrumental in delivering the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) programme, to deliver transformation in the generation and use of co-produced weather and climate services. This supports decision making at local, national, and regional levels, building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates, these are just some of the examples of the extensive work that the United Kingdom is undertaking in utilising space to address disaster risk and build resilience. International collaboration is absolutely crucial if humanity is going to address the climate crisis as

well as manage and mitigate disasters, and we look forward to engaging further and working with all nations in this critical endeavour. Thank you.