

Vienna, September 1, 2021

Intervention by the Argentine Delegation at the 64th session of the United Nations Commission on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) under item 11 (Space and Climate Change).

Thank you Mr. Chairman

The provision of data from Space represents a fundamental tool to manage the Earth's natural resources, protect the environment, respond in an effective and timely manner to natural and anthropic disasters, improve the quality of life of the population of our territory, promote the economic and productive growth of the country, help better land use planning, contribute to the security of the population and interpret the causes and consequences of global climate change to adopt adequate mitigation and adaptation measures.

Within the framework of the National Space Plan, Argentina implements, through its space agency, the National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE), which works together with the scientific-technological system and technology-based companies of the country, lines of action dedicated to generating the capabilities to provide information from Space, from the design and construction of satellite missions, their control and operation, to the transformation of Space data into effective information to contribute to state policies and decision-making, promote their use in the scientific-technological field and the private sector to find synergistic solutions with direct social and productive impact for our country and the region. It also participates in international initiatives.

It is in this context that CONAE is operating the SAOCOM Mission, which consists of a constellation of two twin satellites (SAOCOM 1A and SAOCOM 1B), each of them equipped with a Synthetic Aperture Radar instrument (SAR Synthetic Aperture Radar) in Polarimetric L band, as well as the Ground

Segment necessary for its operation. Both satellites, together with the Italian constellation COSMO-SkyMed, make up the Italian-Argentine Satellite System for Emergency Management (SIASGE).

In particular, the ability of SAR instruments to acquire images during the day and night, and in cloudy conditions, added to the properties of the polarimetric L-band, makes them especially useful for providing data for the management of risk and disasters such as floods and droughts, landslides and monitoring of volcanic activity, quantification of burned areas, among others. The products generated by the SAOCOM Mission are very useful for studies related to climate change such as monitoring glaciers and the dynamics of ice at the poles, analysis of water availability and reserves, deforestation processes, biomass studies, including complementing studies of ocean dynamics.

The next mission of the National Space Plan, in the last stages of its development, is the SABIAMar 1 Satellite Mission. It focuses on the observation of seas and coasts, with a payload of optical and thermal cameras that will provide information for studies on marine and coastal ecosystems and continental water bodies, biodiversity, fishing, surveillance in seas and health contributions through the detection of toxic algal blooms, among other applications. The contribution of this mission will have a significant impact at the national level, being part of the Pampa Azul initiative that seeks to value the various aspects of marine sciences, and also at the international level by participating in various initiatives within the framework of the Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

Likewise, it should be noted that the Mario Gulich Institute for Advanced Space Studies, a collaboration between CONAE and the National University of Córdoba, develops the line of research for Monitoring and Modeling Environmental Quality Indicators focused on generating tools for the Environmental management based on the integration of satellite data, field

measurements, multivariate statistical analysis and advanced image processing techniques using both those from the SAOCOM mission and the satellite missions of partner agencies and those available at the international level. Examples of these studies are those applied to air and water quality that, together with CONAE, reach public institutions for their operational use. The long-term objective is to capitalize on the synergy of satellite information and advanced numerical analysis techniques to detect environmental problems in time and propose mitigation and adaptation measures.

One of the consequences of Climate Change is the intensification of disaster events that severely affect the population and the socioeconomic development of nations. Taking as an umbrella the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, through CONAE, Argentina participates in various international initiatives dedicated to the study and provision of satellite information for applications related to risk and emergencies management events such as the United Nations SPIDER Platform, the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, and other initiatives within the framework of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS for its acronym in English), adding its participation in the Space Climate Observatory (SCO-). Likewise, CONAE has its own mechanism, articulated at the national and regional level to respond to requests in emergencies that are beyond the scope of international initiatives. In this framework, not only SAOCOM images are provided, but also expert support for both national and foreign users. In the field of satellite information applications for emergencies, we reaffirm our commitment to continue with the development of tools for the application of this information and to contribute to facilitating access to it to all countries in the region.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.