

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,**

From the very beginning of the Israeli space program, Israel has invested in remote sensing technology and its application.

Israel is continuously improving its sensors' capabilities and satellite agility to improve the products as well as the revisit time. However, we believe that it is no less important to develop new applications based on existing remote sensing data and to prepare application for new expected data.

Israel has made strides forward in remote sensing, both on the scientific and on the commercial fronts. We would like to share with you part of our national activity, as well as our international cooperation in the field of Earth observation and its application.

**Madam Chair,**

As a part of the UN SPIDER network, Israel contributes to its efforts.

For example, Dr. Shimrit Maman, Director of the earth and planetary facility at the Ben Gurion University, conducted training in KARI last July on behalf of SPIDER, and she will be conducting another course in the upcoming summer.

In addition, last June Israel joined the CNES initiative for Space Climate Observatory and it intends to take an active role in this initiative.

Furthermore, last July Israel supported the Mexican Space Agency with remote sensing data based on VENUS satellite upon their request to follow up the Sargassum algae, which affected the Mexican golf.

**Madam Chair,**

I would like to address the success of Venus, a satellite which is a cooperative scientific Earth observation mission of CNES and ISA. Venus is delivering images with high resolution, excellent photometric quality in 12 bands and exceptional revisit time of 2 days to 125 sites around the globe, enabling research on precise agriculture, water quality identification and other environmental parameters studies by researchers from around the globe. We will take the opportunity to present its results during the June session. Moreover, we are pleased to inform that we have decided with our French colleagues (from CNES) to extend the mission by two additional years in which we will have better resolution and revisit time of 1 day. Soon the call for proposal for researchers will be issued.

As a continuum to Venus, ISA is working on the SHALOM Project together with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) which is the most advanced hyperspectral mission. Its phase B is now in progress and it is due to be launched in full scale development shortly.

A new mission that includes a cluster of nano-satellites for cloud evolution study and lightning imaging was initiated as a cooperative mission between Israel and France, for environmental research.

An Additional goal of the Israel Space Agency is to foster international cooperation based on remote sensing application. Just recently, we have decided with Space Florida to promote a joint call for proposal for cooperation of universities from both sides dealing with remote sensing application, and we are discussing with other agencies to promote similar projects.

**Madam Chair**

Israel uses remote sensing data for encouraging young children to STEM education. In the last three years we are supporting various high school programs which are using VENUS data.

It should be noted that Israel's progress in scientific research in remote sensing is paired with progress on the commercial front as well. Israeli companies range from remote sensing satellite operators and data distributors to value added companies, creating significant value in fields such as business intelligence, precision agriculture, water quality management and infrastructure analysis.

One outstanding example of such a company is UTILIS, which presented its activity here at the STSC last week. UTILIS has developed a unique technology that leverages SAR imagery to identify water leakage and provide actionable insights for municipalities and engineers to maintain public utilities and preserve water.

**Madame Chair,**

It is Israel's intention to continue and develop remote sensing capacity within its industries and different sectors, including science, education and commerce.

The joint effort and the collaboration between countries in remote sensing is instrumental to advance many of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

In this context, the use and study of- remote sensing data, of vegetation and water resources, may maximize agriculture productivity, thus improving water preservation and water quality and promoting different SDGs.

**Madam Chair,**

Israel is ready and open for further cooperation and collaboration on this key topic. I thank you for your attention.