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Agenda Item 5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Space technologies and related applications are increasingly demonstrating their potential as useful tools in implementing activities devoted to the achievement of sustainable socioeconomic development. Italy is deeply committed to raising the awareness and foster the use of space technology in support of development projects.

Within the framework of the European Space Agency, Italian companies are participating in a series of pilot projects launched with the aim of raising the awareness of international financial institutions, which are active in the field of cooperation for development, regarding the benefits of space technology for sustainable development.

Allow me to mention some of these projects.

The first one is the **Earth Observation for Sustainable Development Disaster Risk Reduction (EO4SD DRR) project**, which promotes a greater use of satellite Earth Observation into the working processes of the projects funded by Multilateral Development Banks in developing countries. It proves that satellite Earth observation data are extremely effective in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle, such as prevention/preparedness, early warning, post event recovery and reconstruction activities.

The **Earth Observation Clinic project** provides a rapid-response mechanism for small-scale and exploratory uses of satellite EO information in support of a wide range of projects and activities of development agencies and banks. It gathers teams of satellite remote sensing experts in ESA member states, with a comprehensive range of skills and experience in terms of geospatial product generation and analysis, in support of requests coming from development agencies and banks. The recent activations of the support teams covered the areas of Agriculture, Climate Change, Coastal Zone Management, Disaster Risk Management, Energy and Natural Resources, Forestry, Marine Environment Management, Transport, Water Resources Management.

The last example of these series of projects is **PREMIA**, which stands for “**Platform for risk evaluation and management in agriculture**”. It develops a platform for the provision of innovative services applied to agriculture risk management, which integrates Earth Observation data with other relevant data, such as those of meteorology.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

also in the field of satellite remote sensing, I would like to recall the **COSMO-SkyMed Open Calls** that the Italian Space Agency has already launched in 2015, with no expiry date so far, to promote basic and applied research through the provision of data obtained from the Italian radar satellite constellation COSMO-SkyMed. They are addressed to the international scientific community and those interested may apply at any time by sending a project proposal through the dedicated page of the ASI website.

Italy also launched a new satellite equipped with hyperspectral technology, called **PRISMA**. Hyperspectral imaging is a remote sensing technology that acquires image data in hundreds of narrow contiguous bands, from the visible to the shortwave infrared, which allows, for instance, to identify minerals in rocks and soils, to analyse vegetation types and conditions, and to detect pollutants in water and air. I would like to inform all interested delegations that PRISMA data are available to the international community by just accessing the PRISMA portal and registering. A technical presentation will be delivered by an ASI experts on 26 April.

Madam Chair,

let me mention one last recent initiative that represents a good example of the application of space technology to the management of the environment in a developing country, through the international cooperation. The project is called **“WildTrackCube-SIMBA”** (which stands for **“System for Improving the Monitoring of the Behavior of Animals”**). It aims at investigating low-cost satellite solutions for wildlife tracking in Kenya. The cubesat was realized by an international team led by the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), which includes students and professors in aerospace engineering and in biological sciences, coming from universities of Nairobi, and supported by the Italian Space Agency and the Kenya space Agency.

The project won the **“WIN A FREE LAUNCH OF 1U CUBESAT”** competition to launch a cubesat on the First Commercial Mission of GK Launch Services, promoted jointly by the International Astronautical Federation and the Russian company GK Launch Services. The launch successfully took place in March. A technical presentation on this initiative will be delivered on 22 April.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

in conclusion, Italy would like to stress its strong commitment to contributing, through its space technology and expertise, to the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030.

Thank you for your kind attention.