

## **Agenda Item - 5**

### **Space Technology for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development**

**Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,**

The Indian delegation is happy to brief this Sub- committee on the agenda item 'Space technology for Sustainable socioeconomic development'.

India is increasingly following the path of development to facilitate the society to meet their own needs, at the same time decreasing the human impacts, reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity. In this context, Space technology plays an important role in mitigating the unsustainable exploitation and degradation of land including host of other natural resources.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Using satellite data, India carries out biennial forest cover mapping. The recent results show that there is 0.65% increase in forest cover during 2017 to 2019. Towards increasing the use of renewable energy, selection of hydroelectric site using satellite data and GIS have been found to be effective mostly in the remote mountainous areas. Thus, in order to address the commitments to COP-21 of UNFCCC agenda, India has been increasingly making efforts to enhance CO<sub>2</sub> removal through increasing forest cover and to improve energy efficiency measures without compromising on the developmental priorities of the country.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Satellite data is being used operationally for snow cover monitoring, glacier dynamics, inventory of glacial lakes and water bodies in Himalayan regions. In last 4 decades, temporal changes in glacial lakes have been monitored using satellite data and have revealed that the number as well as area of glacier lakes in the Uttarakhand Himalaya have increased significantly.

**Madam Chairperson,**

India has prepared desertification and land degradation atlas using satellite data following the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) guidelines.

ISRO is providing geospatial support for Soil Health Card scheme of Government of India. Geospatially enabled techniques are being developed to support the National Programme on Crop Insurance, including optimal planning of crop cutting experiment and crop damage assessment. Satellite based mapping and monitoring of cultivable and non-cultivable wastelands have significantly helped in diversification and intensification of agricultural activities especially in the rainfed areas. Further, sustainable development of surface and ground water resources are also enabled using space based inputs.

Towards sustainable development of urban areas, urban GIS database creation has been completed from satellite and ancillary data for formulation of GIS based Master Plans under sub-scheme of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

ISRO supports a well-coordinated Disaster management programme, which uses EO, Communication and Navigational inputs, aimed at developing a disaster resilient society.

**Madam Chairperson,**

In conclusion, while underlining the usefulness of space technology in sustainable development, the Indian delegation reiterates its willingness to share Indian experience in this important area.

**Thank you Madam Chairperson**