

Agenda item 4:

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,

India lauds the efforts under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, that have made significant impact, locally and globally. Space Applications programme in India also focuses on utilising the technology for the benefit of society.

Madam Chairperson,

Synergy of Satellite Communication; Navigation and Earth Observation applications are ensured towards facilitating inputs for socio-economic security, sustainable development, governance and disaster risk reduction. The programme is also oriented towards addressing the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals of UN.

Madam Chairperson,

India has established a unique institutional mechanism for ensuring greater role of various stake holders in the space applications programme, such as forecasting potential fishing zones, pre-harvest crop production estimation, biennial forest cover mapping, water resources management, etc. Many of these programmes are being effectively used by respective user Ministries.

Madam Chairperson,

Space-based inputs are used for census of natural resources in India, at relevant frequencies, for various resources such as vegetation, wetlands, forest cover & biomass, snow & glaciers, etc. Periodic assessment of air quality & generation of products on essential climate variables are also being carried out. Hydro-informatic products such as evapotranspiration, runoff index, snow-melt run-off rate etc. are generated at periodic intervals, enabling informed decision making.

Data and products from the meteorological satellites are assimilated by India Meteorological Department for Numerical Weather Prediction models towards enabling national weather services.

Madam Chairperson,

Various national programmes like Rural Employment Guarantee, Integrated Watershed Management, Decentralized Planning, Rural Connectivity, Urban Rejuvenation, Crop Insurance Programme, etc. effectively utilise space based inputs. Space applications are also in place for managing disasters such as flood, forest fire, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones.

Madam Chairperson,

India's regional navigational satellite system; NavIC, is being utilised for services on time synchronisation and location based applications. Many Smartphones are now enabled with NavIC based locational service.

Madam Chairperson,

India is engaged in International Cooperation for Space Applications, in terms of joint missions, exchange of Earth Observation data, and also in Disaster Management support. India is also active in the International Charter - Space and Major Disasters and Sentinel Asia, for sharing Earth Observation resources during major disasters.

Madam Chairperson,

India contributes towards capacity building in space technology applications for professionals and students from Asia-Pacific region through the UN affiliated CSSTEAP hosted in India. India also imparts training to professionals from BIMSTEC countries on Remote Sensing Applications.

Madam Chairperson,

To conclude, India would like to convey that Space Applications programme in the country is sufficiently evolved to take its benefit for development of society and the nation. India strongly supports wider utilisation of Space Applications at global level.

Thank you Madam Chairperson