CANADA

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Agenda Item 10 – Space and Water
Statement delivered by: Ms. Sam Condie, Global Affairs Canada
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Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Canadians enjoy a country that has a very rich natural landscape. Canada's biodiversity is a cornerstone to our way of life and Canadians, in particular Indigenous Peoples, depend on the well-being of our natural environment to support our cultures, health and economy. Whether in the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic oceans, the health and protection of our coastline – the longest in the world – and our oceans, is critical to Canada's environment, economy and to all Canadians.

Launched in 2019, Canada's Oceans Protection Plan is creating a world-leading level of marine safety, protecting our waterways for generations to come. In June 2021, the Minister of Transport published the 4th Report to Canadians on the work accomplished to date through Canada's Oceans Protection Plan. Currently almost 14 per cent of Canada's waters are considered Marine Protection Zones with a goal of conserving 25 per cent of our marine and coastal areas by 2025 and working toward 30 per cent by 2030.

In order to protect our precious natural resources, we must ensure that we can monitor coastal and inland waters to safeguard their continued health. Canada's Radarsat Constellation Mission (RCM) provides regular and daily coverage of the most critical water bodies but there are other systems that aid in the overall understanding of our water ecosystem. Canada has also contributed to ESA's Satellite Soil Moisture Ocean Salinity (SMOS) mission. Launched in 2009, it maps the sea surface salinity and monitors soil moisture on a global scale, thus contributing to a better understanding of the Earth's water cycle. It is also providing snow and ice cover observations, contributing to the study of the cryosphere. Through SMOS, we are advancing environmental research and addressing the challenges of understanding how the Earth system works and how human activity is impacting natural Earth processes.

The Canadian Space Agency is also joining the NASA and CNES led Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission, scheduled to launch in 2022. Once on-orbit, SWOT will survey 90% of the Earth's surface water, observe the fine details of the ocean's surface topography, and measure how lakes, rivers, reservoirs and oceans are changing over time. At ten times the resolution of current technologies, these precise measurements will provide the scientific

community with a better understanding of the dynamics of the world's oceans and terrestrial surface water.

It is only through the monitoring and protection of Earth's water resources that we can ensure that humanity can continue to benefit from the bountiful benefits brought by our oceans, lakes and water resources.

Thank you for your kind attention.