ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

MINISTRY OF FOREING AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

by

Delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran

before

The sixty forth session of the COPUOS

on

Agenda Item 10: Space and Water

25 August-3 September 2021
Vienna, Austria

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

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Although access to clean water for all is on the list of UN sustainable development goals, climate change and unsustainable economic development has exacerbated the water shortage in certain regions of the world. Yet, some aspects of this problem can be mitigated through the use of space technologies. Remote sensing and geographic information systems are valuable tools for water resource management and thus contribute to three pillars of sustainability, i.e. Economic development, environmental protection and social equity.

Most parts of Iran, are situated in semi-arid and arid regions and consequently Iran faces both prolonged droughts and floods. To address these challenges, Iranian space agency tries to utilize space-based information applications for the sustainable management of water resources and in this vein runs related projects and capacity building programs in partnership with national and intergovernmental organizations like Disaster Management Organization and Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO).

Most recently, in August 2021, a joint workshop on the "space technologies for drought, flood and water resources management" which was held in collaboration with UNSPIDER offered a platform for experts to identify challenges and provide recommendations to enhance regional efforts towards water resources management and emergency response in the case of water-related disasters. We would like to cease this opportunity to thank UNOOSA for their support which enabled the organization of this workshop.

We would like to emphasize that , the need for an integrated system for studying water resources and related hazards like water pollutions and water scarcity needs to be

supported by improved in-situ monitoring networks, rapid access to satellite data, better linkages between models, comprehensive framework for data management.

Chair,

Regrettably, inadequacy of space-based services compared to the potential capacity to utilize space technologies, has significantly increased the gaps between developed and developing countries in the use of this technology. As a result, a large population in developing countries has not yet been able to fully benefit from the current space technology revolution. We are of the view that the UN should double its efforts in reducing this growing gap between developed and developing States.

Today sufficient opportunities offer to access and utilize Earth Observation data needed for monitoring and modeling variables that manage water resources. Besides data, it seems necessary to have participatory approaches involving a network of institutions to perform disciplinary research, develop knowledge and validate results. There is a need for policy development, capacity-building, knowledge exchange, transfer of technology, and interdisciplinary thinking of sustainable development goals to build capacity among stakeholders to use space-based information and promote innovation to empower communities to deal with emerging risks related to water resources.

I thank you