



Agenda Item 8

Space and Sustainable Development

Delivered by

Federal Republic of Nigeria

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Uses of Outer Space.

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Mr. Chairman:

Nigeria has mainstreamed the SDGs into the heartbeat of her space program. Our strategic space applications initiatives, projects and programmes cuts across the 17 SDGs since the adoption of SDGs by United Nations in 2015.

Nigeria major priority is to diversity the economy through intensified efforts on the returns on agriculture. Nigeria's agricultural imports totaled \$7.2b (**N3.35** trillion) over four years (2016–2019), more than four times the country's agricultural exports of \$1.3b (**N803** billion). Nigerians spent \$52.4b (**N22.8** trillion) on food in 2019, accounting for more than half (56.7%) of total household spending of \$100b (**N40.2** trillion). Agricultural activities employ about 75% of the population, predominantly rural inhabitants, although the sector is largely subsistence, primitive, and undeveloped, accounting for less than 5% of foreign exchange revenues.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates,

NASRDA in partnership with China Aerospace Information Research Institute and China Academy of Science (AIR-CAS) developed a Nigerian customized CropWatch cloud service platform to effectively monitor crops based on accurate, reliable, and timely availability of information for appropriate decision making to improve agriculture yield. Primarily to provide data that will be used for Early Warning on Food Security/crop census mapping and yields prediction; mapping of farm plots, land use /land cover update and Provide data that will be used for precision and commercial agriculture; use space-derived information and land-based observation for generating regular updates on crop production statistics that serves as inputs to achieve sustainable agriculture; serve as a remote sensing-based national agricultural monitoring platform that provides agro-climatic condition, agronomic information, production outlook and food security early warning to meet specific needs of farmers.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria is also implementing the blockchain technology with pixel-level mapping as an innovative resources management strategy from space. The hackathon initiative is to bring private individuals with great ideas to manage and grow their innovations to start-ups. This allows transparent information sharing within a business network by storing data in blocks that are linked together in a chain. It is chronologically consistent and modification is only possible with consensus within the network because of the built-in mechanisms. This stability enables several applications such as data analytics, information security, Internet of things, cyber smart grid, e-governance, healthcare, financial transactions, logistics, smart contracts, media, personal identity security, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

In line with the importance that Nigeria attaches to the issues of climate change, the Climate Change Act was approved in 2021. The Act provides for an ambitious framework for mainstreaming climate actions in line with national development priorities and sets a net-zero targets for 2050-2070. One of the framework adopted by Nigeria is the use of space base data to tackle the issues related to climate change. One of such use of space based data is the Assessment of Environmental Sensitivity to Desertification in Katsina State in Nigeria. The study employed the Mediterranean Desertification and Land Use (MEDALUS) by combining five environmental indicators to derive the environmental sensitivity to desertification.

The increasing strain on natural resources brought on by growing human population threatens the sustainable use of natural resources to fulfill the demands of both current and future generations. The health and productivity of global land resources are declining, while demand for those resources is increasing.

Mr. Chair,

The Launch of GEO-Nigeria in May, 2023 is aimed at consolidating on institutional efforts, strengthen capabilities and create synergies on the use of EO data to achieve national sustainable development goals. The GEO Nigeria will help improve the availability, access and use of Earth Observations for a sustainable planet. This will also help for the coordinated and sustained data sharing and infrastructure for better research, policy making, decisions and action across many disciplines.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates,

UNSPIDER and the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters has become a great partnership platform for Nigeria Institutions for matters relating to Disaster Management. The National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) has served as Project Managers and Value Addition Provider for the International Charter for floods within the Africa Region.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.