

Agenda Item 11: Space and Water

Republic of Korea National Statement

Sixty-Seventh Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

June 19, 2024

Thank you, Chair.

The Republic of Korea would like to take this opportunity to highlight our efforts in addressing marine disasters and managing water resources through space technologies and international cooperation

Over the past 50 years, ocean temperature has risen by 1.35 degrees and is expected to rise by up to 4 degrees by 2100. This has raised serious concerns about significant changes to fisheries resources.

To address this issue, the Republic of Korea has obtained the relevant information, including ocean temperature, through integrated data analysis from our geostationary meteorological satellites (GK-2B, 2A), NASA and NOAA's satellite, and our marine observation facilities. We have continued to provide this information to fishermen and related agencies.

To respond to marine disasters such as red tides, the Republic of Korea utilizes payload (GOCI-II) of the geostationary satellite (GK-2B) to acquire marine environmental information such as ocean pollution, salinity, and ocean current circulation. Our efforts go well beyond national level.

Through the Korea-Indonesia Marine Technology Cooperation Research Center, we provided equipment for collecting marine satellite information and established a platform to utilize our geostationary satellites, contributing to Indonesia's marine management.

Looking ahead to 2027, the Republic of Korea plans to launch a low Earth orbit satellite equipped with a 10-meter C-band synthetic aperture radar for water resources research, river management, marine environment monitoring, and disaster response. Moreover, the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) is working with the United States' NASA, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and the Canadian Space Agency on the joint development of satellite utilization technology for water resources, and data-sharing cooperation.

To further enhance international cooperation, the Korea Maritime Institute established the Asia Office of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)'s Blue Planet program in 2021. In 2023, the office hosted the 'GEO Blue Planet Symposium,' laying a foundation for a network of marine experts in the Asia region.

With official launch of the dedicated space agency, Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA), the Republic of Korea would like to reaffirm our commitment to utilizing space technology for sustainable development and fostering international cooperation for the benefit of all humanity.

Thank you.