

**Canada Statement**  
**Agenda Item 12 – Space and Climate Change**  
**Delivered by: Ashlyn Milligan, Global Affairs Canada**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Sixty-Seventh Session, Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. On June 5, 2024, the UN Secretary-General laid out some hard-hitting truths related to the climate crisis, highlighting that those least responsible are hit the hardest: the poorest people; the most vulnerable and developing countries; Indigenous Peoples; women and girls. Climate change is challenging sustainable development; forcing people from their homes; and rocking foundations for peace as people are displaced and vital resources are depleted. In that regard, the Secretary-General has called for states to take urgent action and implement fundamental reforms to collectively combat the climate crisis.

Canada recognizes that climate change and biodiversity loss do not respect borders. Not only do they represent existential threats, but they are also catalysts for instability, conflict, starvation, and pandemics. Since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, Canada has taken significant action to address climate change. As a climate leader, Canada has put in place measures to reduce pollution and achieve a net-zero economy by 2050. Canada is also committed to working with international partners to monitor climate change in support of a more sustainable and safe future for all, particularly by addressing those challenges faced by developing countries.

At UNGA 78, Canada announced significant climate-related investments to improve international climate financing and protect our oceans. In addition, since 2022, Canada has been funding projects aimed at addressing climate challenges faced by developing countries. The initiative “Partnering for Climate” is funding projects from civil society, including Indigenous groups, to support climate change adaptation in the Global South. And more recently at COP28, Canada announced several initiatives to promote rapid access to resources and partnerships with developing countries and provide finance for five critical areas: loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation, climate governance, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

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COP28 also built on previous efforts at COP26 to increase awareness of the ways in which space-based capabilities contribute to addressing the climate crisis. The Space Agencies Leaders' Summit marked the first time that an event on the official program focussed explicitly on space and space agencies' contributions, and Canada, alongside nearly twenty other international space agency partners, pledged to enhance space-based climate initiatives to combat climate change.

The use of space-based technologies is a vital tool in our fight against climate change. Canada believes it is therefore necessary to preserve the satellite spectrum allocation in the 10GHz frequency band, which is dedicated to the downlinking of earth observation data. The data generated by these systems is critical in helping scientists and decision-makers around the world better understand our planet, its resources, and how to manage them more efficiently to ensure the sustainability of our environment for future generations. In the last decade, Canada has invested heavily in its earth observation satellite fleets to provide data on oceans, ice, land environments and the atmosphere, which has made a significant contribution to global monitoring and assessment of climate change impacts.

In 2023, Canada allocated additional funding to support immediate and future earth observation data needs. The initiative is called RADARSAT+. It will ensure the continuity of essential earth observation data to numerous organizations so that they continue delivering services to Canadian and international partners. This data is essential for monitoring the environment, managing natural resources, and supporting emergency response teams. Canada is also continuing with the development of its WildFire Sat mission, which aims to provide daily monitoring of all active wildfires in Canada from space. WildFire Sat will enhance our ability to predict which wildfires have the potential to burn out of control, allowing first responders to better prioritize their efforts and reduce the economic losses related to wildfires.

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Mr. Chair,

Earth observation is a fundamental element in the fight against climate change. The scientific data generated by space-based instruments provides significant benefits to address global challenges. Canada is committed to working with all partners in support of a more sustainable and safe future for all.

Thank you for your kind attention.