STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 12: SPACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE BY SINGAPORE AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 19 – 28 JUNE 2024

Chair,

- 1. The effects of climate change are being felt worldwide, and is an existential threat to humanity. As a low-lying island Singapore remains fundamentally vulnerable to the impact of climate change. We have turned to space tools to help us navigate and mitigate challenges posed by climate change.
- 2. One of the pressing challenges is the proliferation of harmful algal blooms (HABs), which pose significant threats to water quality and biodiversity. Rising temperatures, fuelled by climate change, can lead to increased water temperatures, creating favourable conditions for the rapid growth of harmful algae. These blooms can deplete oxygen levels in water bodies, suffocating aquatic life and causing mass die-offs for fish and other organisms. Moreover, some species of harmful algae produce toxins that can contaminate drinking water supplies, jeopardising public health and economic activities dependent on clean water.
- 3. To combat this issue, OSTIn is supporting a research project led by the National University of Singapore (NUS)'s Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing (CRISP) in partnership with a Singaporean space company, ST Geo-Insights, which aims to develop a cloud-based platform for monitoring water quality in Singapore's coastal waters using satellite remote sensing data.
- 4. The project will investigate the use of space-borne hyperspectral and multispectral data to measure water parameters in water bodies around Singapore. We hope that the tools developed from this project will contribute towards efforts in combatting the harmful effects of algal blooms, safeguard our water resources and address the complex challenges posed by a changing climate.

Chair,

5. In closing, Singapore will continue to use, develop and explore new space technology to provide innovative solutions for the pressing issues of our time, including water management. We look forward to working with other Member States to build a more sustainable and resilient world for future generations.

Thank you, Chair.