

Agenda Item 12 – Space and Climate Change
Statement by Kevin Conole
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Thank you, Chair and distinguished delegates. Climate change cannot be confronted by one nation alone. That's why accessible, available, and useable data has arguably never been more important than it is right now. The importance of Earth science data will only continue to grow as extreme weather increases. In response to this crisis, the United States, through NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Geological Survey uses space-based Earth observations, scientific research, and data modeling to better understand the planet's changing climate, and the impact of those changes on humanity. The climate crisis knows no borders. We are all in this together.

Rising temperatures and sea levels, together with changing weather patterns, impact nearly all areas of our lives. According to scientists at NOAA the world is experiencing a global coral bleaching event, due to warming waters. The fourth on record and the second in the last 10 years. Coral bleaching, especially on a widespread scale, impacts economies, livelihoods, food security and more.

With more than two dozen satellites, instruments aboard the International Space Station, and commercial and international partnerships, NASA uses our unique vantage point of space to observe our planet. Through a joint NASA-USAID program initiative called SERVIR, local leaders in Colombia are using NASA Earth science data to track illegal deforestation and mining in the Amazon. Another program called AgMIP uses NASA data to forecast agricultural conditions, helping governments and farmers around the world prepare for drought and famine.

Chair, later this year, NASA and the India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are planning to launch NISAR, for NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar. NISAR will help the world study hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, as well as measuring global environmental changes.

Chair, after launching earlier this month from New Zealand, the second of NASA's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) two satellites is now communicating with ground controllers. Data from these two cube satellites will better predict how Earth's ice, seas, and weather will change in a warming world.

Now in its fifth decade, the NASA and USGS partnership for Landsat continues to provide researchers with global measurements to better quantify the impacts of surface warming, wildfires, droughts and floods at scales where many are managing their land resources – critical information to assess our global food supply.

On June 25th NOAA will launch its Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)- U satellite, the fourth and final GOES satellite of this series. GOES-U will provide critical atmospheric, hydrologic, oceanic, climatic, solar and space data for advanced detection and monitoring of environmental phenomena that threaten the security and well-being of everyone in the Western Hemisphere. GOES-U will provide a continuous stream of data contributing to NOAA's long-term archive of temperature measurements that show us how our planet's atmosphere has changed over time, and support NOAA's environmental products and services for Arctic, ocean and fire weather observations.

To make the most out of operational satellite observations for climate science, NOAA regularly updates approximately 30 climate data records focused on fundamental sensor data and thematic information on atmosphere, land, and ocean, to enable additional science work using these long-term data records.

As the United States works toward greater collaboration with its international partners, we are committed to increasing accessibility, transparency and inclusivity of its understanding of the Earth System, climate change, and the application of that knowledge. We encourage others to join the open science initiative, making the data they collect and analyze available to others, to help accelerate scientific discovery for the benefit of all.

The United States is taking historic action and working with partners globally to understand, mitigate, and adapt to our changing planet.

Thank you, Chair.