

Agenda - 13: Use of space technology in the United Nations system**Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,**

India acknowledges and appreciates the efforts under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. India's Space Applications focuses on utilizing the technology for the benefit of society.

In order to supporting UN-SDGs, India has adopted the Indian Space Policy – 2023 and implemented Free and Open data policy. With this, India has opened up all its past satellite datasets collected since 1988 and current data of 5m and coarser spatial resolution to all on 'free and open' basis, through its Bhoonidhi portal. Further, the satellite data and satellite derived thematic data produced using public funds has been made 'free of any charges' without any restriction for enabling innovative applications by academia, industries and Government agencies. The Member States may utilize the Indian remote sensing data which is available openly.

Mr. Chair,

India is submitting to United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) to prioritise areas needing immediate action to combat land degradation and achieve land degradation neutrality status by 2030. Three mapping cycles have been completed in last two decades. The information has been used in generating the action plans for combating the desertification and checking the process of land degradations.

As part of India's commitment to support International Disaster Management, Indian satellite data is provided under International Charter and Sentinel Asia.

India is also contributing to promote operational utilization of space technology and equitable sharing of benefits from space technology towards achieving the SDGs through Regional Plan of Action (POA) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP).

Mr. Chair,

India actively supports capacity building in Remote Sensing through hosting United Nations affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), located in India. The Centre has completed 28 years of its establishment and benefitted more than 3650 officials from 64 countries. Apart from the regular courses, CSSTEAP has partnered with UNOOSA and ISRO to organize Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) on "Earth Observation for Climate Action" and benefitted 2476 candidates from 64 countries.

Further, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs (GOI), IIRS also conducts regular certificate course in remote sensing & Geoinformatics for professionals from developing countries. So far, 950 participants from 106 countries have benefitted from the program.

India is also contributing actively to various training programs under UN-SPIDER.

Mr. Chair,

India is pleased to inform about its initiative to provide satellite data and geospatial services to the Pacific Island Countries in the form of data portal named DWEPIC (Data Warehouse for Empowering Pacific Island Countries)

With the on-going ISRO's programme on space applications for societal benefits, ISRO will be happy to play a major role in implementing the space based support for capacity building and technical support for many of the plan of actions.

Thank you Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates.