

Item 16. “Space2030 Agenda” _ESCAP

Thank you, Mr Chair.

In 2024, the ESCAP secretariat prepared a theme study titled *Seizing the Opportunity: Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future*. The study describes the wide spectrum of digital innovation underway in Asia and the Pacific, *including innovative geospatial applications*. The study recommended embracing digital innovation platforms and cited the work of the ESCAP secretariat to lower the entry barriers to adopting geospatial information-driven digital innovations through regional cooperation.

In 2024, the ESCAP secretariat will continue updating the [Geospatial Good Practices Database and Dashboard](#), an online regional knowledge-sharing platform highlighting innovative geospatial applications in achieving the SDGs. Over 600 practices have been captured, representing over 3,600 actions implemented under the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), and will contribute to the Space2030 Agenda.

In addition, the *Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in East and North-East Asia 2024: A Compendium* will be launched in October 2024 which features current and emerging geospatial practices in the public sector in line with the six priority areas in the regional space Plan of Action, includes (i) disaster risk reduction and resilience; (ii) management of natural resources; (iii) connectivity; (iv) social development; (v) energy; and (vi) climate change. It will also provide insights into the enabling mechanisms and environments that can scale the impact of geospatial applications for sustainable development.

Given the urgency of addressing disaster-related challenges in the region and aligned with the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development adopted by ESCAP members and associate members in October 2022, the secretariat is collaborating with the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia and other countries in the region, to build the capacity of disaster-prone countries in the use of integrated geospatial information for disaster hotspot mapping and preparedness, through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and a virtual satellite constellation for sharing information, and data in disaster risk hotspots pre-disaster for strengthened overall disaster risk management.

The Jakarta Ministerial Declaration reinforces the commitment to increase the involvement of young people in the space sector. Translating the Declaration into actions, a Youth Forum on Innovative Geospatial Information Applications was held at Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand, in late January 2024. The Forum was co-organized with the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency of Thailand, Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Multi-GNSS Asia, National Agency for Research and Innovation of Indonesia, the UN Satellite Centre, and ASEAN Research and Training Center for Space Technology and Applications. The forum has built the capacity of young professionals and university students to engage in resilient agriculture, disaster risk reduction and innovative technologies for the future.

Since 2018, ESCAP has been sponsoring the participation of young professionals from developing countries to study postgraduate courses on remote sensing and GIS for sustainable development at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in Dehradun, India. 3

6 young professionals (50% of them are female officials) from developing countries have completed the course as of 2024 with ESCAP's support.

ESCAP has served as the Secretariat of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) since November 2018. The 12th Plenary Meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP and the 1st UN-GGIM Inter-Regional Committee Meeting which Indonesia hosted were successfully organized in November 2023, in Bali, Indonesia. The 13th Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP will be held in New Delhi, India in November 2024.

I thank you.