

PHILIPPINES

67th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE Agenda Item No. 16 – “Space 2030” Agenda

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines reaffirms its full support to the adoption of the Space2030 Agenda that aims to utilize space activities and space tools in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

As a country affected by climate change and exposed to both natural and anthropogenic hazards, we strongly believe in the importance of utilizing space tools in pursuing sustainable development goals, as well as to use these space tools in enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.

Furthermore, we highlight the critical role of space data in the formulation of data-driven and evidence-based policies. This will in turn help uplift conditions in the country, especially in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

The Philippines looks forward to the finalization of the action-oriented outcome document **Pact for the Future** during the **Summit of the Future** on September 22-24, 2024. The Philippines lauds the inclusion of a new governance framework for outer space captured in the document. Likewise, we express our appreciation to the efforts of Germany and Namibia in their endeavor to facilitate coordination activities in preparation for the summit.

Mr. Chair,

At the national level, the Philippines continues to develop and use space science and technology applications to observe the climate, monitor the natural and built environment, and implement effective disaster risk reduction and management through its own sovereign satellites, as well as through other available satellite data sources made available by our partners.

The Philippines fully supports harnessing space to improve quality of life. We recognize the importance of Earth observation in assessing the ocean and marine ecosystem, agriculture and forestry, biodiversity, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Space capabilities provide valuable tools for planning, prioritizing, and evaluating programs geared towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

For instance, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) has partnered with the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to create a geospatial database of the country's natural resources and to monitor the National Greening Program using space data. Through this partnership, we are generating monthly indices or maps on vegetation trends and biophysical parameters and develop ways to detect changes. As a concrete example, we employed satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to automatically detect mangrove areas across the country and quickly generate a nationwide map, which we have distributed to the public for ground validation. This approach builds a sense of ownership through community engagement and citizen science. These maps and public engagement contribute to the country's efforts in effectively and sustainably managing and conserving vital natural resources and enhancing climate resilience.

On March 19, 2024, PhilSA co-organized and participated in the *“Navigating the Frontiers of Global Space Collaboration and Promoting Space Science and Technology Applications Across Industries”* conference. Supported by the Embassy of Canada in the Philippines, the conference highlighted the significance of space capabilities for addressing various national imperatives.

For an archipelagic, maritime nation, the development and use of space science and technology applications for monitoring benthic habitats, and managing fisheries and coastal resources are important. On air quality monitoring, we have an existing partnership with the Republic of Korea and UNESCAP on the PAPGAPI Project and the use of Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) satellite that would give unprecedented ability to monitor daytime air quality over the entire Philippines on an hourly basis.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, as the Philippine embarks on its journey towards the realization of its goals towards the Space 2030 agenda, it also ensures that its plans and programs are also aligned and consistent with its national policies and issuances such as the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and other international commitments in the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework and other post 2015 agenda as precursor of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.