

Agenda item 9: Space and Sustainable Development**Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,**

Indian delegation would like to inform this august gathering of its significant accomplishments in use of space technology to support Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]. India has always advocated the path of sustainable development to maintain a balance between environment and development. In this context, Space technology plays an important role in planning and monitoring of developmental activities to meet the societal needs, at the same time decreasing their adverse impacts on ecology and environment. Presently, number of operational Earth Observation satellites are providing data in the domains of natural as well as anthropogenic resources on the earth and its environment.

Mr. Chair,

Indian Earth Observation satellites provide the user community with inputs to conserve the bio-resources, geo-resources, hydro-resources. The EO inputs are vastly used in promoting sustainable agriculture, coastal area management, forest area management, energy management.

National level programmes have been initiated for mapping and monitoring of community level biodiversity, coral reef, forest cover, snow cover area and health of glaciers in the Himalaya using space inputs. India annually carries out a national level mapping of Land Use Land Cover (LULC) to monitor and quantify the LULC changes and its impact of environment. The outcome of these activities are provided as inputs to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

India is also submitting information to the 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.

Mr. Chair,

India frequently experiences natural disasters like floods, droughts, cyclone, forest fires, landslides, etc. Country's high population density increases the vulnerability of population towards these natural disasters. India has excelled in use of space technology in development of early warning systems for some of these natural disasters. These systems have enabled the country to reduce the loss-of-life in each of the disasters and fast track the relief, rehabilitation and redevelopment activities in the affected areas.

Mr. Chair,

India greatly emphasises on effective utilisation of space technology in monitoring and managing water resources. The availability of surface water in the natural and man-made reservoirs is frequently mapped using Earth Observation data. These results feed into the Water Body Information System (WBIS), which provides spatio-temporal dynamics of water bodies at frequency of upto 5 days. Space based inputs are effectively used in assessing the sustainability and prospects of groundwater resources at habitation level.

Mr. Chair,

India's commitment to rapidly increasing the renewable energy capacity reflects its strong commitment towards reduction of Green House Gases emissions. India is encouraging use of Earth Observation data in identifying and tapping the potential of renewable energies viz. hydroelectric, solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, tidal energy in the country. India is also utilising the space inputs for mapping and quantifying the bio & green fuel potential of the country to make its transport a green sector by reducing the consumption of fossil fuel.

Mr. Chair,

Indian delegation, in conclusion, would like to convey that India is exploiting the potential of space technology in ensuring the sustainable development of the society. India is willingness to share its experience with member nations, towards achieving the global sustainable development.

Thank you Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates.