

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the
67th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer
Space
19 - 28 June 2024**

Agenda Item No. 9 - Space and Sustainable Development

Thank you Chair,

Pakistan believes in maintaining outer space for peaceful uses and acknowledges the right of all member states to develop their capabilities in space systems in a peaceful and sustainable manner.

The National Space Policy of Pakistan articulates the strategic application of space technology to advance both national and sustainable development goals. Pakistan is committed to harnessing space science, technology, and its applications to address socio-economic challenges comprehensively, thereby contributing to sustainable development and bolstering national security. The policy underscores the critical role of space-based data, information, and services in fostering economic development and enhancing national security. Advanced applications in communication, remote sensing, and navigation are pivotal in sectors such as agriculture, water resource management, forestry, urban development and disaster management. These efforts align with and significantly contribute to the attainment of sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chair,

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace & prosperity by 2030. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs recommends effective utilization of space technology and its application for sustainable development and socio economic uplift of the Member states. In this regard, Pakistan attaches great importance to utilization of space based assets and their applications for achieving objectives of SDGs.

Pakistan also affirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its own national development agenda through a unanimous National Assembly Resolution in 2016.

Pakistan has also ratified the Paris Climate Agreement and is a state party to Sendai Framework on Disaster Mitigation. Ratification and acceptance of these agreements is an indication of Pakistan's commitment towards sustainable development. Pakistan also supports the recommendations of COP28 and their implementation using space technology.

Mr. Chair,

Earth Observation data and geospatial data, and combining such outcomes with statistical and demographic data, for near real time analysis of conditions and modeling of complex and dynamic risk scenarios, digital space maps and other visualizations are particularly useful for supporting the evaluation of impacts across sectors and regions and allowing change over time to be monitored in a more consistent and standardized manner. The result is improved decisions, policy and accountability. Pakistan is making good use of the available resources in utilization of space technology and its application for implementing the global sustainable development agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan is currently developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure which will use extensive GIS databases and multi-temporal satellite imagery. This National effort is being spearheaded by Survey of Pakistan and aided by all the national stakeholders including SUPARCO, the National Space Agency, as well as all the Provincial Governments. A national GIS would be integrated into the Government Five-year Development Plan, creating a new model for governance and development with an emphasis on inclusive growth, especially to reduce duplications, expedite development and bring demographic dividends. The National GIS will help support sustainable development and spatial planning, enable transparent systems and near real time mapping needs across all sectors.

Mr. Chair,

SUPARCO has also completed two research projects under the ambit of APSCO, titled Forest Carbon Stock Assessment using Geospatial Technologies and Mangrove Watch from Space. These projects contribute to UN-SDGs 13, 15 and 17. Moreover, SUPARCO is undertaking various space awareness initiatives under UN-SDG 4 to educate people about the utilization of spatial technologies for socio-economic development. These initiatives include short and customized trainings for national and international users from government departments, public, private sector and academia in the fields of Satellite Remote Sensing (SRS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Mr. Chair,

One important point to note is that unless the benefits and potential of Space Applications are recognized and applied across all important sectors, including planning & financing, they will remain academic activities and will not be incorporated into country development plans. In this regard, there is a greater need for advocacy about effective use of Space Applications at all tiers of the Governance framework.

Pakistan is making active efforts to increase the indigenous capacities in space technology and its applications to assist in socio-economic development of the country. By and large Pakistan has made efforts to contribute in most of the SDGs and we are constantly making efforts to develop space solutions to all possible areas of SDGs while seeking international partnerships and collaborations.

I thank you.