

67th SESSION OF UN COPUOS
Agenda Item No. 09 – Space and Sustainable Development
Delivered by Deputy Director General Denis F. Villorente
Philippine Space Agency

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Philippines, we express our utmost appreciation to you, Chair Sherif Sedky, and to the dedicated staff at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for the excellent preparations made for this year's session.

The Philippines is committed in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through space science and technology application (SSTA). The country notes the benefits in achieving the SDGs such as mitigating climate change and ensuring food security.

Regarding the utilization of space technology for sustainable development at the national level, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) conducts the "PhilSA Integrated Network for Space-Enabled Actions towards Sustainability" (PINAS) in different provinces across the Philippines. The project engages communities by providing relevant training on the use of satellite images and derived products that support planning, monitoring and decision-making in their programs while getting feedback on how these tools can be made more responsive and tailored to local needs.

This project is a whole of society approach involving the local government units (LGUs), national government agencies (NGAs), research and development institutions (RDIs), and citizens, as well as non-government organizations, such as civil society organizations (CSOs) and private companies in providing space-based services. A recent example is the development and distribution of the nationwide mangrove maps, where PhilSA collaborated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines. Using satellite imagery, remote sensing and artificial intelligence techniques, PhilSA was able to quickly generate the nationwide map and distribute it to the public for ground validation. Notably, this agile approach contributes to sustainability through active community engagement and by promoting citizen science. Another relevant project of PhilSA is the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information Project and the Pandora Asia Network (PAPGAPI-PAN), a project that aims to monitor air quality via Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) aboard the GEO-KOMPSAT-2B Satellite and a network of ground-based remote sensing instruments for data validation called Pandora. This was made possible through our cooperation with the Republic of Korea, and with this, we express our utmost appreciation.

The Philippines highlights the importance of the Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) for Space Law for New Space Actors Program of UNOOSA, that aims to raise awareness

on the fundamental principles of international space law, as well as underscore its relevance in the national context. The Philippines will continue to ensure their continuous application in our current and future space activities and international cooperation.

We look forward to the next TAM, which will be held in Manila in November 2024. We thank UNOOSA and the government of Japan for selecting the Philippines for this technical mission.

At the regional level, the Philippines emphasizes that it will continue to cooperate in the existing initiatives on sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, through our continued participation in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) and our full support to the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030). Likewise, we would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Philippines is hosting the 31st Annual Meeting of APRSAF this coming 2025.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines underscores its commitment in pursuing the development of its own space capabilities and highlights its willingness to cooperate with the global space community in jointly exploring a safe and sustainable approach in space development.

In pursuit of becoming a space capable nation through satellite development and missions, the Philippines assures this Committee that the country is committed to uphold the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities or the LTS Guidelines, and other relevant guidelines set forth by the UN in the management and governance of space activities. Philippine space missions are designed to adhere with space debris mitigation guidelines which limit the long-term presence of satellites in outer space at the end of their missions.

In addition, the Philippines is currently finalizing the country's response protocols concerning rocket launches and other outer space activities such as space vehicle launches (SVL) and orbital debris re-entry (ODR).

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, our delegation assures the Committee that the Philippines will continue in pursuing the sustainable development approach in its space science and technology application development and continue to utilize space technology for sustainability on Earth and in outer space. We will continue to abide by existing norms and principles in advancing our common agenda for the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

We call on other member states to do the same to harness the benefits of space for all nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.