



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE

AGENDA ITEM 9: SPACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DELIVERED BY: MS FIKISWA MAJOLA

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Thank you Chairperson, for the opportunity to present South Africa's views under this agenda item.

Science and technology are recognized as priorities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The application of science and technology, particularly space-related technologies, is an essential tool for accelerating sustainable development. The South African Government acknowledges the pivotal role of space science and technology in national development, emphasizing its impact on improving citizens' quality of life and creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

Chairperson,

The South African Government has approved a comprehensive investment initiative to enhance the South African space sector's role in developing new space applications and promoting its growth. This initiative also aims to support efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The establishment of the Space Infrastructure Hub is currently underway and is intended to enhance South Africa's space capabilities across the entire value chain. This includes satellite development, constructing new ground stations, developing human capital, and expanding data storage and processing capabilities, among other initiatives.

This ambitious programme will further enable South Africa to utilise Space technology to contribute to sustainable development by supporting better management of our natural resources; including improving agricultural output. In addressing food security challenges, South Africa leverages cutting-edge tools that use earth observation data such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Precision Agriculture Information System (PAIS) and the Agricultural Research Council's (ARC) Umlindi report which is a monthly report on drought conditions throughout in the country.

Chairperson,

Over the past 30 years, the use of space technologies has played a crucial role in enhancing societal resilience and has significantly impacted South Africa's development. The need for timeous access to critical data is a key driver of many initiatives within the South African space programme, including the development of remote sensing technologies such as the Synthetic Aperture Radar, and the development of local satellite manufacturing capabilities.

The application of space related activities, are also essential tools for bridging the digital divide, with the capacity to place developing countries on a path of sustainable growth and development. This is consistent with the impetus given to development through the use of space-based applications in support of economic development and poverty alleviation.

Living in an era of continuous adverse challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, natural and man-made disasters, space technologies remain our hope in playing an increasingly significant role in finding sustainable solutions for a better future. South Africa supports the inclusion of a dedicated space track included in the Summit of the Future.

I thank you.

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