Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands on agenda item 10 "Space and Water"

Delivered by: Alfred Visser

Mr. Chair,

1. As a low-lying delta country, we are aware of the importance of water — as a source of life, a driver of economic activity, and at times a threat to safety and infrastructure.
2. The Netherlands sees space-based data and services as critical enablers for integrated water policy. Whether addressing issues of drought, salinisation, flooding, or water quality, Earth observation provides essential insights that support sustainable water management and effective climate adaptation strategies.
3. We recognise water as a key societal challenge, where space can deliver direct public value. We therefore invest in the development and use of space-based instruments that provide critical data for water monitoring and decision-making.
4. Satellite data play an essential role in strengthening our country's resilience to extreme weather. This includes applications that help monitor and manage water infrastructure such as dikes, dams, storm surge barriers and pumping systems — elements at the core of Dutch waterworks. We are working to integrate remote sensing with real-time sensor data and AI applications to enhance predictive capabilities and early warning systems.
5. In densely populated and vulnerable regions like ours, water quality and water safety are inseparable. Satellite data contribute to regulatory compliance and protecting both ecosystems and public health.
6. The Netherlands is strongly committed to international cooperation in the field of water and space. We actively contribute to European programmes such as Copernicus and support collaborative development of satellite applications for sustainable water use and climate resilience worldwide. These efforts align with our ambition to promote strategic partnerships and shared innovation between governments, academia and industry.
7. In our experience, effective solutions emerge through multi-actor collaboration. That is why the Netherlands fosters public-private partnerships and engages knowledge institutions and technology providers in developing actionable water-related space services. These partnerships are key to unlocking the full societal value of space infrastructure.

8. Finally, we see great value in strengthening data access, capacity building and co-creation with users — particularly in areas facing severe water challenges.

Mr. Chair,

9. Sustainable and secure water management is vital to our collective future. The Netherlands will continue to invest in responsible and innovative space-based solutions to support water resilience — at home and abroad — guided by our long-term strategy and our commitment to international cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.