Canada Statement
Agenda Item 11 – Space and Climate Change
Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Eighth Session, Vienna, 25 June – 02 July, 2025

Chair,

Building from the 2022 *Strategy for Satellite Earth Observation: Resourceful, Resilient, Ready,* Canada is progressing its leadership in leveraging satellite data to support scientific excellence, innovation and economic development. Canada is making significant investments in a wide range of Earth observation capabilities, including next-generation synthetic aperture radar, wildfire monitoring, climate modelling, and air quality forecasting. As the impact of climate change becomes more apparent every day, innovations in space technologies provide detailed, reliable and timely information to enable science-based decision making, and to support countless services that can monitor and mitigate the effects of climate change while driving global economic growth. Domestically, EO satellites have proven to be valuable tools to better understand climate processes and their impacts. Most recently, the RADARSAT Constellation Mission has been used to image the impact and spread of forest fires across the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. RCM continues to support the Government in its mandate to monitor the impacts of climate change by enabling services supporting efforts to protect the environment and foster sustainable development, manage natural resources, and support disaster relief globally.

Climate change requires urgent action. Earth observation data is integral to developing solutions and practical approaches to address this. In this regard, Canada is designing and developing a replenishment satellite for the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) and identifying options for the successor to RCM. Moreover, Canada continues to develop the WildFireSat mission to provide daily monitoring of all active wildfires in Canada from space with more precise information on smoke and air quality. It will support wildfire management and is planned for launch in 2029.

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The Canadian Space Agency was proud to Chair CEOS in 2024. From October 22 to 24, 2024, the Canadian Space Agency hosted the 38th Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) plenary meeting. The CEOS plenary brought together the expertise of space agencies and government entities to maximize the benefits of satellite Earth observation (EO) initiatives, particularly related to preserving our planet's biodiversity.

During CSA's chairmanship, the committee focused on supporting climate change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity monitoring and protection. This includes advancing the collection and sharing of critical EO data to help prevent global biodiversity loss. During the 38th CEOS Plenary, participants endorsed the establishment of a Biodiversity Study Team and the Montreal Statement, which encourages cooperation to meet Earth observation users' needs, renews commitment to environmental monitoring and climate, and supports disaster risk management through coordinated space-based climate data. The Montreal Statement also pledged efforts to ensure interoperability and accessibility of data to maximize the benefits of the observations by integrating with other data types. Finally, the Montreal Statement encourages that the activities CEOS members be aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where appropriate and practicable. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the work ongoing under the new Chairmanship of the United Kingdom, and we can assure you of Canada's full support.

In conclusion, Canada remains focused on unlocking the full potential of space technology. Recognizing social, economic, and environmental priorities on Earth, we remain committed to support scientific excellence, to monitor and adapt to climate change, and to advance technology development for the benefit of all humankind.