

Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands on agenda item 11

“Space and Climate change”

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Mr. Chair,

1. The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the opportunity to address agenda item “Space and Climate Change”. We underline the crucial role of space-based systems in supporting the global response to the climate crisis — from mitigation and adaptation to long-term resilience.
2. The Netherlands is a low-lying country, vulnerable to rising sea levels, extreme rainfall and drought. As climate impacts intensify, we are witnessing increasing damage to our natural environment, infrastructure, and economy. In 2024 alone, global insured losses from climate-related disasters exceeded approximately €126 billion — a stark reminder of the urgency of our shared challenge.
3. We believe that climate change and environmental protection are among the core societal domains where space offers indispensable value. Satellite-based Earth observation is critical for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, land-use change, sea-level rise, and the degradation of ecosystems.
4. The Netherlands invests in the development and operational use of space-based systems to monitor and protect our environment. Public institutions such as KNMI (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute) use satellite data in combination with AI-powered modelling to track weather extremes and long-term climate trends. The national Early Warning Centre integrates satellite and radar data to provide high-resolution forecasts and hazard warnings that protect citizens and critical infrastructure.
5. The Netherlands also supports the development of new climate observation missions, including small satellite constellations and hosted payloads that target methane emissions, coastal dynamics and urban heat islands.
6. Beyond national applications, we are strong supporters of European and international climate cooperation. The Netherlands actively contributes to the Copernicus programme, including through the development of downstream climate services. We also participate in international initiatives focused on space-based data for climate adaptation and nature-based solutions — as highlighted in our cooperation within ESA and EU frameworks.
7. Moreover, the Netherlands emphasises the need for global access to climate-relevant satellite data, particularly for developing countries. Open data policies, technical assistance, and inclusive governance are essential to ensure that all countries can benefit from space-based knowledge in

support of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. We stress the importance of public-private-academic partnerships in creating effective climate services — for example by linking Earth observation with AI, in-situ sensors and socio-economic models to inform policy decisions. We invite continued international cooperation in these fields.

Mr. Chair,

9. Addressing climate change requires a coordinated, science-driven and forward-looking approach. The Netherlands reaffirms its support for the work of COPUOS and UNOOSA in facilitating international dialogue and cooperation on climate-related space applications.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.