

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the
68th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space
25 June - 02 July 2025**

Agenda Item No. 10 - Space & Water [FULL VERSION]

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and appreciates the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in facilitating global dialogue on critical issues, including the intersection of space technology and water resource management.

Mr. Chair,

The global freshwater crisis represents one of the most pressing challenges of our time. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, over 2 billion people currently live in water-stressed countries, with projections indicating this number could double by 2050. Climate change has disrupted traditional precipitation patterns, with 74% of all natural disasters between years 2001-2018 being water-related. Groundwater sources, which provide half of global drinking water, are being depleted three times faster than they can recharge.

Pakistan's vulnerability to these global trends is particularly acute. Ranked 14th among the world's most water-stressed countries by the World Resources Institute, our per capita water availability has plummeted from 5,260 cubic meters in 1951 to just 908 cubic meters today - well below the 1,000 cubic meter scarcity threshold. The catastrophic 2022 floods demonstrated our extreme exposure to devastating impacts of climate change submerging one-third of the country, affecting 33 million people, and causing over \$30 billion in economic losses. Meanwhile, our northern glaciers, which feed the Indus River system supporting 90% of our agriculture, are retreating at alarming rates due to rising temperatures.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan recognizes the indispensable role of space technology in water resource management and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Our National Space Policy prioritizes the use of Satellite Remote Sensing (SRS) for water resource management, including monitoring irrigation networks, watershed conservation, and disaster preparedness.

Pakistan has taken concrete steps through SUPARCO, Pakistan's national space agency, to harness these technologies, including: mapping of comprehensive glacier inventory, developing real-time hydrological monitoring systems; mapping sites for prospective dams in Baluchistan and irrigation network asset management and

monitoring. SUPARCO also conducted multiple national training workshops on geospatial water applications since 2018, benefiting over 300 professionals.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan recognizes the vital role played by international cooperation in the application of space technologies for water resource management. SUPARCO has been an active participant in the Space4Water Project launched by United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW) since 2018, regularly participating in the stakeholder meetings. Moreover, collaborations with international partners, including the Institute of Tibetan Plateau and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, have been instrumental in understanding trans-boundary water systems and glacier dynamics.

Mr. Chair,

To bridge the technological divide, Pakistan calls for enhanced international cooperation under COPUOS and advocates capacity-building initiatives to strengthen local expertise in geospatial applications. The UN 2030 Agenda compels us to ensure that no nation is left behind in harnessing space for water security.

As we deliberate on this critical agenda item, Pakistan urges member states to translate political commitments into actionable partnerships. Let us harness the power of space technology to safeguard our most precious resource – water - for present and future generations.

I thank you.
