

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the
68th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space
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Agenda Item No. 8 - Space & Sustainable Development [FULL VERSION]

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Pakistan reaffirms that outer space is the shared heritage of humankind, and must be preserved for peaceful purposes and the equitable development of all nations, particularly developing countries. We uphold the sovereign right of every Member State to develop and utilize space technologies in a responsible, sustainable, and inclusive manner, consistent with international space law.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan takes pride in being the first country in the world to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a unanimous resolution of its Parliament in 2016—demonstrating our national commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have also ratified the Paris Climate Agreement and are a state party to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, underscoring our enduring commitment to sustainable development. We also welcome the outcomes of COP29, particularly the reaffirmation of the role of space-based Earth observation in enhancing understanding of the global climate system and informing decision-making processes for effective climate action.

Mr. Chair,

The National Space Policy of Pakistan articulates a strategic framework that emphasizes the integration of space technology into sustainable development planning. Pakistan is leveraging space science, satellite applications, and geospatial technologies to address socio-economic challenges, enhance environmental resilience, and strengthen national capacities in planning, governance, and disaster risk management.

This policy underlines the transformative potential of space-based information—particularly in remote sensing, communication, Earth observation, and satellite navigation—to drive progress in critical sectors such as agriculture, water management, forestry, health, urban development, and disaster preparedness. These efforts are directly aligned with the global 2030 Agenda and Pakistan's national development priorities.

A recent flagship initiative includes the launch of a mobile application that provides tailored satellite-based solutions to agricultural businesses. Through this application, SUPARCO, Pakistan's national space agency, offers real-time remote

sensing data to facilitate precision farming, improve resource efficiency, and enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Similarly, in the area of environmental monitoring and disaster management, SUPARCO hosts the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office and has joined hands with the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) –a government-owned entity that finances projects aimed at enhancing Pakistan’s resilience to climate and disaster risks– for the development of the Natural Catastrophe (Nat Cat) Model. This pioneering initiative, the first of its kind in the region, uses geo-referenced data to assess disaster risks from both hydro-meteorological hazards such as floods, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and geophysical hazards. The model aims to provide comprehensive risk assessments, vulnerability analysis, and financial impact projections at the sub-district level, thereby supporting risk-informed investment decisions and enhancing national resilience.

Pakistan is also developing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) led by the Survey of Pakistan and supported by SUPARCO, provincial governments, and line ministries. The NSDI integrates multi-temporal satellite imagery and GIS databases into the Government’s Five-Year Development Plan, enabling evidence-based policymaking, streamlining development efforts, and ensuring inclusive, transparent spatial planning across key sectors.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan places strong emphasis on regional and interregional cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. As an active member of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), and a regular participant in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), Pakistan supports multilateral collaboration as a cornerstone of sustainable space development.

Under APSCO, Pakistan has undertaken several joint initiatives, including the completion of Forest Carbon Stock Assessment using Geospatial Technologies and Mangrove Watch from Space—both of which contribute to climate adaptation and environmental monitoring, aligned with SDGs 13, 15, and 17.

Pakistan also participates in the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), contributing to working groups focused on space applications, climate change, disaster management, and satellite data utilization. Through APRSAF’s SAFE initiative and Sentinel Asia, Pakistan benefits from collaborative projects in flood monitoring, forest fire tracking, and drought early warning systems - further aligning with the Sendai Framework and multiple SDGs.

Mr. Chair,

Recognizing the need to cultivate a space-literate society, SUPARCO conducts regular space education and outreach activities under SDG 4 (Quality Education). These include customized training for stakeholders from government agencies, academia, and the private sector in satellite remote sensing (SRS) and GIS

applications. These efforts are critical to increasing technical capacity, ensuring national ownership of space data, and developing indigenous solutions for sustainable growth.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan is intensifying its efforts to develop indigenous space capabilities, enhance access to high-resolution data, and deepen regional and international partnerships. We are committed to working closely with UNOOSA, APSCO, and other multilateral platforms to support data-sharing, capacity-building, and joint mission development aimed at achieving the SDGs.

Pakistan reaffirms its strong support for the Committee's work in ensuring that space technology and applications serve as inclusive tools for global peace and sustainable prosperity. We look forward to enhanced international cooperation to build a future where space solutions are accessible to all.

I thank you.
