

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates:

Over the past several years, Israel, through the Israel Space Agency (ISA), has supported UN-SPIDER on advisory missions, capacity building and outreach training in the leveraging of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction.

On October 2020, UNOOSA and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further this support and create a Regional Support Office (RSO) at BGU as part of UNOOSA's program, United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

The Israeli RSO in the Earth and Planetary Image Facility (EPIF) at BGU, headed by Dr. Shimrit Maman, is responsible for multi-disciplinary satellite and airborne remote sensing scientific research with an emphasis on climate change and environmental applications, including advancing and developing new remote sensing methods. Its addition brings the number of UN-SPIDER RSOs to 25 and adds precious expertise on satellite technology to the network.

Through the MoU, UNOOSA and EPIF work together on several topics including, emergency response management, capacity-building using space-based technologies for disaster management, and the dissemination of methods and results from Earth observation.

Israel wishes to congratulate UN-SPIDER for its Report on activities carried out in 2020, and hopes that the constructive and important work of UN-SPIDER to promote the application of space-based information and services for disaster management will continue, and contribute to successfully addressing disasters in the future.