



**INTERVENTION BY KENYA ON THE AGENDA ITEM 6:
MATTERS RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH
BY SATELLITE, INCLUDING APPLICATIONS FOR
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND MONITORING OF THE
EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT DELIVERED AT THE FIFTY EIGHTH
SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-
COMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS)**

Thank you, **Madam Chair**, for giving my delegation the opportunity to speak on this agenda item.

Madam Chair, Remote Sensing of the earth using satellites offer countries the ability to collect information over large spatial areas and to monitor Earth environmental changes over time. We take this opportunity to thank all those agencies and stakeholders who continue to avail Earth Observation data at no or subsidized cost to the users.

In particular, we want to thank the United States of America who through National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/ U.S. Geological Survey USGS continue availing Landsat data and more recently the European Space Agency who are now availing Sentinel data at no cost. This data has been of critical importance, more especially for developing countries who are resource constrained and do not have satellites in space, in monitoring their environment to enable policymakers make informed decisions about natural resources and the environment.

Madam Chair, In particular, my delegation thanks organizations, such as Group on Earth Observation and others, that continue to promote the utilization of the Earth Observation data to inform decisions. The Kenya Space Agency, is a beneficiary of an award by the Group on Earth Observation (GEO)-Google Earth Engine (GEE) programme that provides support for production licenses and technical support to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges using open Earth data.

I am happy to report that, despite challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team has developed products on Natural Resources Management, focusing on a pilot project on monitoring change at the Aberdares forest in Kenya. The team is



currently working on a spatial planning project that is focusing on Urbanization trends in Nakuru town in Kenya. Subsequently, the team will develop products on Disaster Management, with a particular focus on Floods and Landslides.

In conclusion, **Madam Chair**, the importance of high-resolution imagery cannot be refuted. The costs involved for accessing such national coverage at high resolution is usually prohibitive. Kenya strongly supports initiatives such as Norway's International Climate & Forests Initiative, which is making available high-resolution imagery and analysis-ready data to help reduce and reverse the loss of tropical forests, combat climate change, conserve biodiversity, and facilitate sustainable development.

We appeal to agencies with access to high resolution imagery to consider availing such to developing countries at subsidized costs to enable the countries utilize that resource in support of decision making and environmental sustainability programmes.

Thank you.