India

Agenda item - 16

Space and Global Health

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates,

India is undertaking considerable measures towards national development and socio-economic growth of our population. Health care is one of the priority areas of the Government of India, particularly for our rural people where we are exploring the use of space based technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

Indian Delegation would like to inform this august body that improvement in the standard of living and health status of the population has remained as one of the important national objectives. Our health system has limited resources and capability, so our effort is to maximize the efficiency of the available resources in the health system using such technology.

Using Space technology for GIS mapping of diseases particularly in relation to their geographical distribution has been done successfully for mapping of village level ecological risk of malaria; niche modelling for Kala-azar; early warning tools for malaria; early warning system for the outbreak of Japanese encephalitis, etc. Space based tools are also employed for many activities in monitoring and containing the spread of COVID virus and reducing the impact on human casualties.

Mr. Chairman,

The tele-medicine system is operational for rural and remote areas of India and has been very much useful for connecting the populace in these areas with specialty hospitals. In the recent past, tele-consultation facility between pilgrimage places enroute within the Indian territories has been also realized.

Another important project ongoing is National Health Resources Repository (NHRR) which is a web-based and geo-mapping enabled single platform of data pertaining to

all the health resources, both government and private, which inter-alia includes, hospitals, diagnostic labs, doctors and pharmacies, etc. The data, collected under ten heads with 4500+ variables including, but not limited to, data on health infrastructure, human resource, services offered and technological interventions in each health establishment. The task of data collection has been completed in Phase – I of the project with aggregation of details from more than one million health establishments spread across the country. This data is being used extensively by various govt. interventions and has proved invaluable in the management of COVID-19 pandemic. Phase – II of the project is being planned towards creation of master health facility registry and evidence based planning.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to convey this esteemed gathering that India has developed the necessary expertise to take the benefits of space technology for the common man's health in the large parts of rural India.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates.