

India

Agenda item - 5

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates

United Nations Programme on Space Applications has made significant impact locally and globally. India acknowledges and appreciates these efforts that have resulted in the dissemination of domain knowledge and experience to wider audience. The focus of Indian Space Programme is in harnessing space technology for national development, and is enabled through the Space Applications programme. The Indian delegation would like to update on the developments on Space Applications in India.

Mr. Chairman

Space Applications programme in India is driven by the requirements of the user community. Capabilities across Satellite Communication, Navigation and Earth Observation domains are synergised in developing and delivering solutions meeting the user requirements. Socio-economic security, sustainable development, governance and disaster risk reduction are the major areas for which the potential of space applications is utilised in the country. Indian Space Applications programme is also oriented towards addressing the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals of UN. India extends its experience of Space Applications Programme for the benefit of the neighbouring countries too.

Mr. Chairman

India has established an institutional mechanism for translating the user requirements into appropriate space missions, and thereby enabling satellite data, techniques & algorithms for delivering relevant products, services and solutions. With relentless efforts over nearly 5 decades, the institutional mechanism has been instrumental in adoption of Space Technology by relevant stake holders in the country.

Mr. Chairman

Census of natural resources is facilitated in the country at appropriate frequencies, for vegetation, wetlands, forest cover & biomass, snow & glaciers, corals & mangroves etc. These inputs help in informed decision making towards sustainable development.

Space Applications are implemented in the country towards addressing issues related to food & water security, weather forecasting, renewable energy development etc. Data and products from the meteorological satellites are assimilated by India Meteorological Department for Numerical Weather Prediction models towards enabling national weather services. Using input from Geostationary satellites, the solar energy potential estimation and its forecasting are developed. Space technology is also used for estimating offshore wind and wave energy potential.

Mr. Chairman

Indian Space Applications Programme has been enabled for providing inputs for planning, monitoring & evaluation, and decision support to major programmes of the Government. Monitoring of assets under the rural employment guarantee programme, impact assessment of watershed development, crop Insurance programme, urban master plan formulation etc. are some of the examples utilising space technology inputs.

Disaster Management support is another domain where Space Applications have been facilitated in the country. Thrust is given in the use of space based inputs for hazard assessment, early warning and rapid response with reference to various disasters such as flood, forest fire, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones.

Mr. Chairman

India's regional navigational satellite system; NavIC, is being utilised for services related to location based applications. NavIC services are used for applications on time synchronisation, and services to fishermen in the sea on forecast of ocean state & potential fishing zones, and alerts on maritime boundary.

Mr. Chairman

India extends its cooperation on the use of space technology applications for the benefit of the neighbouring countries also. Earth Observation data exchange mechanism is established with USGS and European Commission. India is also active in the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and Sentinel Asia, for sharing Earth Observation resources during major disasters.

India contributes towards capacity building in space technology applications for professionals and students from Asia-Pacific region through the CSSTEAP centres at Dehradun, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates

In short, the Space Applications programme in India focuses on national development, and is aligned with the Government's priorities, vision and International commitments. India strongly supports ubiquitous utilisation of Space Applications.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates.