

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 9 – Space-system-based disaster management support**  
**Statement delivered by: Laura-Alexe Marcoux, Canadian Space Agency**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-nine Session, Vienna, February 7-18, 2022

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Space-based technologies are essential for observing, predicting and assessing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. They provide critical information and services to responders and continue to save lives and property from the most devastating effects. In addition to operational support, satellite missions enhance scientific knowledge to help us understand Earth's complex climate.

Canada continues to work closely with international partners as part of disaster relief programs, making Earth observation data available in times of crisis, to help with the assessment of impact and mitigation of risk for natural disasters. Canada actively supports the International Charter 'Space & Major Disasters' and will continue to do so in the future. Since its inception, the Charter has been activated over 700 times to support disasters in 129 countries. As a founding member of the Charter, the Canadian Space Agency has contributed satellite data in response to activations and has provided over 2500 images acquired by RADARSAT-1, RADARSAT-2, and the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) space systems. The addition of RCM as a contributor mission, has improved Canada's overall ability to support Charter activations, and the complete integration of RCM's Fast Tasking capabilities in Charter operations has significantly shortened the time between order submission and first image acquisition.

Canada very much appreciates the growing interest of national space organizations in joining the Charter. The expansion of the group of satellites included in the "Charter's virtual satellite constellation" will effectively increase the quantity and quality of the data available to those who need it. Canada is committed to continually supporting the Charter's growth and innovation to ensure the best possible support for future disaster events. The coordination of International space-based resources contributes greatly to disaster management, and the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters is an exemplary model of international coordination. With its Universal Access, 17 space agencies and space system operators, along with 73 national users across 67 countries, have the ability to directly submit emergency requests as Authorized Users. Unfortunately, Charter activations have increased in the recent years. In 2020, the Charter has been activated more than ever before with 55 activations covering disasters in 33 countries.

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In conclusion, climate change and natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe. In order to better coordinate emergency response activities during a disaster, authorities around the world will increasingly turn to satellites to provide critical services to society. Canada strongly encourages international collaboration to solve this global problem and reduce its effects on human life, property and economies.

Thank you for your kind attention.