

AGENDA ITEM 4

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

STATEMENT

BY

African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education -  
English, Nigeria

February, 2023

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates,

1. In line with the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/72 of 1990 and 50/27 of 1995, The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) was inaugurated in Nigeria on 24th November 1998.
2. The Centre has continued to implement its mandates particularly in the building of Africa indigenous capacities for the development and utilization of Space Science and Technology through its postgraduate programmes, short term trainings, outreach and research activities. From inception in 1998 to date, ARCSSTE-E has graduated six hundred and one (601) Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) participants from nineteen (19) Anglo-phone countries in the following application areas namely; Remote Sensing/GIS, Satellite Communication, Basic Space and Atmospheric Science, Satellite Meteorology and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Space Law. In 2021/2022 academic year, ARCSSTE-E graduated twenty eight (28) students from six (6) Anglophone countries in the RS/GIS, Satellite Communications and Space Law course options comprising nineteen (19) males, nine (9) females.
3. In the ongoing 2022/2023 session, there are thirty (30) participants from seven (7) African countries (Cameroun, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) comprising 9 females and 21 males. The programme continues to enjoy the support of UNOOSA in form of travel grants for the foreign participants for the PGD Programme.
4. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, our delegation is also happy to report that the MTech programme which the Centre runs in collaboration with the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) has graduated seventy-five (75) participants since the commencement of the programme in 2013. It currently has 43 students enrolled in the Satellite Communications and the Remote sensing/GIS options.
5. Additionally Mr. Chairman, the Centre in its role to strengthen institutional capacities and skills acquisition has continued to organize short term workshops and trainings. ARCSSTE-E held a 2-week training for security personnel on 'Security Surveillance,

Monitoring and Intelligence Gathering using Geospatial Techniques'. Also in collaboration with the Africa Centre of Excellence OAU-ICT Driven Knowledge Park, the Centre enhanced the skills of staff on Cybersecurity through a 4-day training on Understanding New Trends in Cybersecurity. A one-day training on Data Models in GIS was also given to 15 staff of the Centre.

6. Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, other educational activities of the Centre like educational tours, robotics, water rocketry, quiz competition, science project exhibition and outreach workshops are targeted at school children, university students and the general public through the Space Education Outreach programme to create awareness and enlightenment about space science. Over the years, we have reached over 10,000 pupils spread across the 6 Geopolitical zones in Nigeria.
7. Mr. Chairman, in the year 2022 alone, we reached out to over 950 students and 164 instructors across 103 institutions. The 2022 World Space Week and a 2-day National Space Education workshop with the theme: "Inspiring Next Generation into Technology for Space Exploration" brought together over 420 students, 72 teachers and 45 schools across Nigeria. The Centre received 260 students with 40 teachers from 7 schools on educational tours.
8. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Centre continues to encourage and foster collaboration in strategic areas to enrich the delivery of its mandates in line with its goals to establish academic and research relationships with space-related institutions. In this regard, the Centre hosted two visiting experts; Prof Olivier Obrou, President of the African Geophysical Society and Dr. Olusola Ayoola, CEO of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, Nigeria (RAIN) and inventor of Carbon Emission Tracker Drones. It also maintains its ongoing collaboration with the Regional Centre for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia & Pacific (RCSSTEAP), and Beihang University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing. Furthermore, new partnerships have been fostered with the signing of an MoU with the University of Applied Sciences Hrvatsko Zagorje Krapina, Croatia as well as with Code for Africa to facilitate joint research, student and exchange of experts.

9. Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Centre continues to make efforts towards garnering high level participation, support and cooperation and commitment of Member States in the implementation of the Postgraduate Programme. As at today, only Nigeria provide counterpart fund for the Centre. This has been a major challenge over the years. We would like to solicit for intervention of UN-OOSA to help to re-mobilise and sensitize member countries through their various Embassies and Diplomatic missions in Austria, to wake up to their responsibilities to the Regional Centre in Nigeria.
  
10. Finally, Mr Chairman, while the Regional Centre in Nigeria continues in her assiduous resolve in the implementation of the United Nations mandates in Space Science and Technology Education for the English speaking African countries, the cooperation and support of all is expedient and strategic to the growth and survival of the ARCSSTE-E. We are open for collaboration and support from institutions and organisations in our focused mandate of capacity development on Space Science and Technology Education in the developing countries.

Thank you very much for your attention.