

Agenda Item No. 04: United Nations Program on Space Applications

Mr. Chairman

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs recommends utilization of space science and technology for socioeconomic uplift of member states. Pakistan is making good use of the available resources to contribute towards pragmatic decision making in relevant sectors of national development and societal impact.

Food security is one of the forefront agenda of all initiatives of UN Program on Space Applications. SUPARCO is proactively using satellite remote sensing for forecasting/estimation of area and yield of major food security crops. Currently 3x national level projects in the domain of crops monitoring and digital agriculture are being executed to further strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders, spatial planning and monitoring of large scale flagship infrastructure projects is being carried out for Ministry of Planning Development and Special initiatives. An extensive capacity building programme is also being run to enhance the capacity of various stakeholders in the use of geospatial technologies for various sectors of national economy. This year 2x trainings were conducted to equip the federal ministries staff in remote sensing and GIS applications. A national level seminar on the role of space technology in socioeconomic development was also organized in Dec 2022 for senior level officials of federal government.

National Highways Authority (NHA) is actively utilizing the geospatial technology for monitoring of their road network. The geospatial monitoring system has strengthened their capacity to manage their resources in efficient and transparent manner.

Mr. Chairman

SUPARCO is continuously providing support to provincial forest departments through satellite based forest monitoring and temporal change. SUPARCO is also carrying out 2x projects with Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) in the context of

capacity building in the fields of satellite based carbon stock assessment and mangrove forest monitoring. This would be further translated into national level projects to build the capacity of national stakeholder. SUPARCO is continuously monitoring dynamics of glaciers and water resources in the region under perspective of climate change.

Mr. Chairman

Natural disasters have always been a serious threat to the country's development. Floods-2022 have brought huge economic and social damage to the country, SUPARCO has proactively provided geospatial information about rapid damage assessment to national and provincial departments for disaster management and mitigation. Currently a National Catastrophy (NatCat) Model project is being implemented for proper planning and management efforts in the domain of preparedness and relief tasks. A Multi Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (MHVRA) project for Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Sindh has been recently completed. Pakistan has actively participated in UN-SPIDER Annual Regional Support Meeting at Vienna and UN/ Austria Symposium "Space for Climate Action" and shared experience with regional countries.

Thank you Mr. Chairman