

Agenda Item 8: Disaster Management Support

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Sixtieth Session February 16, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

Earth observation is recognized as the most effective method of disaster management in space activities. International cooperation is essential for disaster management since disasters that occur beyond a nation's borders cannot be adequately addressed by a single country.

Currently, 17 space agencies and private companies, such as Planet Labs, Satellogic, and ICEYE, are participating in the International Charter voluntarily. Approximately, 270 satellites from space agencies and private companies can be combined to form a virtual satellite constellation that will permit rapid imaging of disaster-affected areas.

Since joining the International Charter in 2011, Korea has provided approximately 5,000 satellite images to contribute to the immediate response to disaster areas around the world. Using KOMPSAT-2, 3, 3A and 5 satellites, 720 satellite images were provided for 50 disasters in 2022, including the Tonga Volcanic Explosion, Philippine Flood, and Nigeria Flood.

In addition, the Republic of Korea is planning to launch a Synthetic Aperture Radar(SAR) satellite, KOMPSAT-6, as well as Earth Observation(EO) satellites, KOMPSAT-7 and 7A, which are in development. Through these satellites, Korea could make significant

contributions to the International Charter.

Through International Charter, the Korea has also received satellite images to respond to disasters such as the Pohang earthquake in 2017, the Gangwon forest fire in 2019, and the floods and landslides on the Korean Peninsula in 2020. In September of last year, International Charter was operated to respond to Typhoon Hinnamno, and 282 images were received including RCM and TerraSAR-X for analyzing damaged area.

In October of last year, Korea Aerospace Research Institute(KARI) conducted the 48th meeting of the International Charter and served as the lead agency. In April, KARI will hand over its lead agency role to UKSA at the 49th meeting. In the meantime, Korea will faithfully fulfill its role as a lead agency. This includes supervising Charter operations, responding to emergencies, educating and training users, and cooperating with UN SPIDER, Copernicus, and Sentinel Asia.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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