

60th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of
the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Agenda item 6: Remote sensing

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to thank you for your great leadership and the acting director of UNOOSA, Mr. Niklas Hidman and the secretariats for their excellent organization of this session.

We also want to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Syria and Türkiye over the earthquake that struck the two countries.

Mr. Chair, The UAE acknowledges the significant role that remote sensing plays in all vital sectors.

Remote sensing systems are invaluable for assessing and mitigating the negative impacts, forecasting weather, monitoring biodiversity and wildlife, monitoring natural resources, urban planning and development, mitigating climate change, and providing valuable data for disaster aid management.

The UAE is working on the earth remote sensing satellite, the MBZ-Sat, which is under development by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre. MBZ-SAT is a continuation of the UAE remote sensing satellites and will provide the UAE with high-resolution sub-meter images of the earth. These images will be utilized for various usages including urban planning, and search and rescue. This project will

strengthen the UAE's partnerships in the space industry between the public and private sectors.

MBZ-SAT will contribute to meeting the growing commercial demand for high-resolution satellite images that will show details within an area of less than one square meter. This imagery solution can support various uses including mapping and analysis, environmental monitoring, navigation, infrastructure management and disaster relief efforts, to name a few. The utility of satellite imagery in aiding and tackling natural disasters is essential as it can help gauge the severity of the calamity, help plan relief efforts and aid in rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Chair, in July of 2022 the UAE announced the launch of the Sirb program, the constellation of synthetic aperture radar satellites. The constellation aims to develop and launch a constellation of advanced imaging satellites that use SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) technology. The project will address the critical need for better environmental and land usage monitoring, data collection and analysis to meet today's global challenges. The planned satellites will be able to create highly detailed and complex radar images of land use, ice cover, surface changes and characterization, with a wide range of scientific, civil and commercial applications. The six-year satellite development program will see its first satellite launch in three years.

The Sirb constellation will be built through a number of partnerships between the Emirati public and private sectors together with international players, with submissions being opened for a range of system integration, development and subsystem construction opportunities as part of the constellation development, launch, operation and commercialization plan.

Finally, we would like to highlight that the Emirates Mars Mission has been an extension of the UAE's efforts in remote sensing, reaching out to Mars to study its weather and bringing back the data to make it available for scientific institutions worldwide with the ultimate goal of benefiting humankind.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, thank you for your kind attention.