

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty first session Vienna, Austria,
29 January to 9 February 2024

AGENDA ITEM 5

Space for Sustainable Development: technology and its applications, including the United NATIONS programme on Space Applications

Statement delivered by the Permanent Mission of
Nigeria

Vienna, Austria

February, 2024

Thank you Madam Chair for given Nigeria the floor,

1. At the onset, we wish to express our support to the new Chair and extend our warm welcome to Ms Aarthi on her appointment as Director of the United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs and we look forward to working closely with your office on enhancing space cooperation and development with the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. Nigeria has continued to implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/72 of 1990 and 50/27 of 1995. My delegation is pleased to remind you that the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) located in Nigeria was inaugurated on 24th November, 1998 and has continued to implement its mandates particularly in the building of African indigenous capacities for the development and utilization of Space Science and Technology through its postgraduate programmes, short term trainings, outreach and research activities.
3. From inception in 1998 to date, ARCSSTE-E has graduated six hundred and twenty four (624) 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, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Space Law.

Madam Chair, distinguished Delegates,

4. My delegation is pleased to inform that in the last Academic Session (2022/2023) a total of 23 participants drawn from eight (8) African countries, successfully completed the nine-month postgraduate diploma in Remote Sensing/GIS and Space Law. The present academic session has nineteen participants (5 female and 14 male) from five African countries. We appreciate the support of UNOOSA for this programme by providing resource persons and travel grants for the foreign participants.
5. **Madam Chair**, distinguished delegates, my delegation is also happy to report that the Senate of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria (the host University of the Centre) has approved the Centre's joint-Masters and PhD Degree Programme with the University in two (2) courses namely: 'Disaster Monitoring' and 'Management and Space Population Studies'. The two courses have commenced in the ongoing 2023/2024 academic session.
6. The Centre has continued to organize educational activities to create awareness and enlightenment about space science. These includes, educational tours, robotics, water rocketry, quiz competition, science project exhibition and outreach workshops targeted at students and the general public through the Space Education Outreach programme. Over the years, we have reached over 12,000 pupils spread across the length and breadth of Nigeria. The Centre also organized the 2023 World Space Week event at the Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

7. The Centre in collaboration with a number of national and international institutions also organized the 2023 International Colloquium on Equatorial and Low Latitude Ionosphere in Nigeria. This programme attracted 126 participants from 21 countries.
8. Madam Chair, the Centre's Engineering and Technical Support Division secured second place in the 2023 "Air Pollution Detection Challenge" competition organized by the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Manchester branch, and the Square team of the University of Manchester. The design competition was open to universities and research institutions in Nigeria. The ARCSSTEE team developed a carbon monoxide sensor/logger with the added capability to warn residents of hazardous carbon monoxide levels through a buzzer and LED alarm system. The packaged device was housed within a specially developed bamboo casing.
9. Madam Chair, 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. We would continue to work with UNOOSA to solicit for cooperation and support re-mobilise and sensitize African member states on the need to ensure the smooth running of the Regional Centre in Nigeria.
10. Concluding, Madam Chair, 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. Nigeria is 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.

I thank you all for your kind attention.