Agenda Item No. 6 “Space-system-based Disaster Management Support”

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February 05, 2025

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Philippines recognizes the vital role that international cooperation plays in enhancing disaster management through the use of space data— enabling informed decision-making, swift response, and successful recovery efforts. The Philippines has demonstrated firm commitment, together with our partners, through various activities in this domain.

The Philippines is committed to uphold and implement international treaty obligations, for example, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Philippines has made significant progress in the implementation of the framework but recognizes the need to strengthen local disaster risk reduction.

The Philippines will continue to work with the international community in utilizing space application for disaster risk management. Last year, the Philippines hosted the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in October 2024 in Manila, which resulted in reaffirming ASEAN’s strong commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Sendai Framework. During the APMCDRR, we conducted the *“Strengthening ASEAN Disaster Risk Management by Harnessing Copernicus Data”* side event, which aimed to raise awareness on Earth observation satellite data for DRM in the Philippines.
As member of Sentinel Asia, the Philippines successfully hosted the 9th Joint Project Team Meeting (JPTM) of Sentinel Asia. This event highlighted the significance of space technology in disaster preparedness and response by bringing together various stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss innovative disaster management strategies. We express our appreciation to the government of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for its leadership in Sentinel Asia. PhilSA remains committed to contributing to this initiative, which facilitates the near-real-time sharing of disaster information across the Asia-Pacific region.

We acknowledge that the Philippines and the European Union's convergence on several agreements have provided useful tools for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. Through initiatives like the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil), methodologies can be shared, localized, and adapted across the country with the goal to expand in the ASEAN region. This kind of information exchange boosts innovation and makes space data more useful for climate adaptation initiatives.

Madam Chair,

In the latter half of 2024, the Philippines experienced an unusual typhoon season, with six typhoons that affected the country within a span of 30 days. These typhoons caused widespread flooding across multiple regions, inflicted severe damage to agriculture, infrastructure, and resulted in economic losses. Extreme weather events also caused the sinking of several ships, leading to significant oil spills in Manila Bay. Through the Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem and the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, we were able to access valuable satellite images and products, enabling us to provide timely information to relevant groups responding to these disasters.

Drought is a recurring issue in the Philippines, often associated with the El Niño phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). During late 2023 and the first quarter of 2024, a strong El Niño event significantly impacted the agricultural sector, leading to water shortages and reduced productivity in crop yields. In response, the Philippines implemented the B-SPARED: Drought project, focusing on anticipatory action for agricultural drought. PhilSA provided technical support to the project through generation of satellite-based agricultural drought maps, enabling assessment of drought conditions and determining the appropriate timing for activating specific anticipatory actions.

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,

We strive to support other government agencies, as well as the private sector, in the utilization of space data and information. During the 2024 Philippine Space Week celebration, we launched the Space Data Dashboard, a platform where space data is presented through an intuitive and user-friendly interface with free download capability for hazard and climate-related outputs. We are also pleased to share that we have successfully completed the pilot implementation of our *Training Course on Downstream Data Utilization* designed for Filipino educators, researchers, and professionals in November 2024. This, along with other training programs conducted has totaled of 140,648 person-hours of training, strengthening capacity on digital imaging processing, spatial data models and analysis, and map validation.

In closing, as the Philippines remains one of the most at-risk and vulnerable countries to extreme natural events, we recognize the urgency of a prevention-focused, forward-looking, and multilateral approach in reducing disaster risks, and the invaluable application of space technology for disaster risk management, response, and climate action.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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