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Statement by the Pakistan Delegation at the 62nd Session of the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS);

03 - 14 February 2025, Vienna, Austria

Agenda Item No. 07: Recent Developments in Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Thank you Chair

Pakistan underscores the importance of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and, through its national space agency, SUPARCO, is establishing the necessary platforms in the country for meeting the long term demands of satellite navigation technology. Pakistan believes in following a premeditated and a coordinated approach in this technology domain. Pakistan's GNSS Vision targets to promote the development of a complete eco-system that not only provide users with the requisite GNSS infrastructure, but also the technology and end-to-end solutions support for using the same.

In this regard, the country's flagship GNSS infrastructure program - Pakistan Space Based Augmentation System (Pak-SBAS) - was successfully launched on board PakSat-MM1 communication satellite on 30 May 2024 and achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC) on 14 Aug 2024. Pak-SBAS Public Service enables integrity based positioning for aviation, marine, railway and land users in phase-wise manner whereas Pak-SBAS Authorized Service enables precise positioning service based on Precise Point Positioning (PPP) technology for applications in the domains of precise GIS, precise cadastre management, precision agriculture, precision mining etc.

SUPARCO has also achieved the IOC of Pakistan Ground Based Augmentation System (Pak-GBAS) in May 2014 to enable centimetre-level precise positioning utilizing Network Real-Time Kinematics (NRTK) approach. Pak-GBAS fulfils the precise positioning requirement of GIS & mapping, precise cadastre management, precision agriculture, precision mining, port management etc.

The planning of other GNSS infrastructure projects such as the National Geodetic Datum and Regional Navigation Satellite System (RNSS) is also underway.

Chair,

SUPARCO is also harnessing GNSS technology to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals through study of coastal land subsidence, application of precision agriculture techniques, digitization of land record and monitoring of national highway networks and deformation monitoring. Further, SUPARCO is promoting & strengthening industry-academia linkages for GNSS technology incubation for which projects are being undertaken in collaboration with academia.

In addition, Pakistan has continued to prioritize international collaboration to achieve greater harmony and standardization of its systems with existing GNSS. SUPARCO has presented the program at various international forums for its recognition such as International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO), Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGS1C) and International Summit on BDS applications.

Pakistan greatly values the work being carried out by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG). Pakistan applied for its membership in 2021. Our application was strongly supported by all members of the Committee on its technical merits except for one member which refused to join consensus for extraneous, political reasons.

Pakistan believes that the ICG is a purely technical body whose work stands to benefit from the participation of countries that have growing GNSS capabilities. The ICG will not be able to pursue its stated objectives effectively if countries, which can contribute to its technical work, continue to be excluded for short-sighted political point scoring. We hope that technical considerations will retain merit and Pakistan can finally join this important platform at the earliest.

I thank you

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