

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: 2023

Sixty-sixth session (31 May - 9 June 2023)

Statement by the United Arab Emirates

Agenda item 8: Space and sustainable development

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

The UAE firmly believes in maintaining outer space for peaceful uses. We also acknowledge the right of all member states to develop their capabilities in space systems in a peaceful and sustainable manner.

Ensuring cooperative use of space, enabling space sustainability and the development of public and private space programs must be on top of the global space agenda. The space industry has and will always be a major driver of human ingenuity and a true indicator of the curious nature of our species.

Mr. Chair, we are delighted to bring to your attention the participation of the UAE in the recent meeting of the International Charter Space & Major disasters which held in Edinburgh last April

This meeting brought up 17 members including representatives from various countries, organizations and stakeholders from space and disasters management related.

The charter members use this meeting as a platform for valuable discussion, knowledge, and collaborative efforts in showcasing the challenges caused by major disasters.

The representatives shared their commitments to utilizing space technologies for the benefits of humanity, participants were actively engaged in exchanging the best practices, best solutions, and the usage of statistics data for effectiveness response of disasters and their mitigation.

Mr. Chair, the UAE has confirmed the importance of international Cooperation and commitment towards the usage of outer space to manage the major disasters. We shared and exchanged the lessons learned, success and its initiatives and programs in utilizing the space data and applications for immediate assessment and disaster management.

The UAE utilized satellite data to estimate the effect of the flooding events in the eastern regions of the country that has been recorded with heavy raining back in 2022. Moreover, through membership in the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters we conduct the Rapid Assessment of Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Crisis for managing the Crisis.

Mr. Chair, we realize the importance of international cooperation, therefore, it's more important than ever that we work together to respond to these challenges. The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters is a vital tool in this effort.

As the UAE aims for a sustainable future, we will participate actively in the international Space platforms such as the international charter Space and major disasters to collaborate and exchange knowledge and expertise to global community to ensure the benefit usage of space technologies for the benefit of humanity in the times of disasters.