

Philippines, Item 10

66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Philippine Statement

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines extends its appreciation to you and to the dedicated staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Secretariat, headed by Acting Director Mr. Niklas Hedman, for their excellent preparations for this year.

Please be assured of the Philippine delegation's full cooperation and active participation in the 66th Session of the UN COPUOS.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines, as an emerging space-capable country, reaffirms our commitment to a safe, secure, and sustainable outer space. Among the key areas the country wishes to emphasize is the use of space technology in water resources management.

The country recognizes that water is a limited resource and requires proper management and allocation. Currently, water scarcity is considered a global crisis exacerbated by the intensifying adverse effects of climate change. The use of space technology will play an important role in water management.

Specifically, space and satellite technology applications (SSTA) are needed to understand the threats to water resources and identify the affected vulnerable sectors of society. Hydrological information is commonly insufficient in developing countries. Hence, the need to capitalize on SSTA is imperative for various applications including remote sensing to discover and assess water resources, monitor floods, assess droughts, and identify their impacts to various sectors and to the economy, among others.

Mr. Chair,

Space data also enables us to analyze, plan and decide on efficient water use and allocation, and influence decision making across all sectors requiring water including agriculture, health, and energy, among others.

A concrete water resource issue exacerbated by climate change is El Niño, which results in drought in the Philippines, a slow onset and natural recurring climate hazard that has long been affecting the country's agricultural sector. This year, El Niño is expected to start by the third quarter and this event prompted the reactivation of the El Niño Task Force (ENTF) aiming to mitigate its effects on four target areas inter alia food security, energy security, health, and safety.

Space science, specifically the use of earth observation tools, are essential in delivering timely information that both complements station-based climate observations and acts as the basis for seasonal forecasts. The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) contributes to the

national efforts and builds on top of the previous and existing drought research in the country through Satellite Mission Analysis, Planning, Product Enhancement and Development (SatMAPPED) project to reduce if not avert potential losses and damages.

Moreover, the Philippines emphasizes the value of using satellite technology and applications to provide access to comprehensive and local level datasets to come up with appropriate intervention measures. The Philippines is pleased to inform you that the country generates satellite-derived agricultural drought indices and agricultural drought outlook for anticipatory action, in coordination with appropriate government agencies. It also leads the development of the National Agricultural Drought Protocol in coordination with various government agencies, academic and research institutions and other international organizations, such as Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines supports the agenda of continuously advancing SSTA towards more effective and efficient management of water resources. Through cooperation and collaboration, we believe that developing countries such as the Philippines will benefit on these technological solutions. Moreover, we strongly believe in further improving science, technology, engineering education and mathematics, and to encourage and capitalize on the youth to be more involved in science and technology.

In closing, Mr. Chair, the Philippines remains positive as it ceaselessly engages to a broader participation and in-depth cooperation with other nations to achieve a more sustainable use of water resources using space science and technology as part of our commitment to adhere to the sustainable development goals.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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