

**Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications****Madam Chair and Distinguished delegates,**

Indian Space Programme has always been focused towards societal benefits and national development and supports the monitoring of indicators of various targets of UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Indian delegation would like to update on the developments on Space Applications in India.

**Madam Chair**

India has adopted a path breaking data policy where the satellite data and satellite derived thematic data produced using public funds has been made 'free of any charges', for supporting UN-SDGs, innovative applications by academia and industries, promoting Government agencies for governance applications. India has opened up all its past satellite datasets archived since 1988 and current data of 5m and coarser to all on 'free and open' basis, through its Bhoonidhi portal to global users.

**Mr Chair**

With respect to working with other space agencies, India and USA are jointly building dual frequency L&S band microwave remote sensing satellite, named 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)' which is first of its kind SAR mission with sweep SAR technology. ISRO and USGS are exchanging their satellite data with each other which is landmark cooperation towards solving our planet's most pressing issues using EO data.

ISRO's upcoming cooperation programmes with CNES on Thermal Infrared mission – Trishna, is making steady progress. India and Bhutan jointly realized a small satellite named INS-2B which is operational and supporting various natural resources applications of Bhutan.

ISRO also plans to build a joint satellite with Mauritius for Earth Observation applications. Besides, India is assisting Nepal in launch of its upcoming satellite – MUNAL-SAT.

**Madam Chair**

In the space applications for sustainable development, India is regularly carrying out biennial forest mapping, afforestation programmes are part of National Mission for a Green India (GIM), snow cover monitoring, inventory of glacial lakes and water bodies in Himalayan regions, glacier advance or retreat monitoring and glacier mass balance studies, National wetland inventory, Coral reefs mapping, Desertification and land degradation mapping, community driven decentralized planning, watershed monitoring and implementing sustainable practices in rainfed areas towards enhancing agricultural productivity and strengthening economic resilience of the rural communities.

**Madam Chair**

India has established remote sensing data exchange mechanism with US and European Commission for complementing and supplementing the data demands of the user community. India is also active member of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and Sentinel Asia, for sharing Earth Observation resources during major disasters.

India has offered to provide satellite data and geospatial services to the Pacific Island Countries in the form of data portal named DWEPIC (Data Warehouse for Empowering Pacific Island Countries). India stands ready to offer such services and technology to other interested partners as well.

**Madam Chair**

The first UN affiliated Regional Center named Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) was established in 1995. Over the past 28 years, it has conducted 67 Post Graduate (PG) courses and several short courses.

These programmes have benefitted 3515 participants from 38 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to this, 68 participants from 25 countries outside Asia-Pacific regions have also been benefitted.

In 2023, CSSTEAP partnered with UNOOSA to conduct a Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) on "Earth Observation for Climate Action" under the UN Symposium - 2023 on the theme of "Space for Climate Action". This MOOC has been widely appreciated and around 2476 candidates from 64 countries have successfully completed the course.

India acknowledges UNOOSA for shaping and contributing as Advisory Committee of CSSTEAP.

**Madam Chair**

India contributes towards capacity building in space technology applications for professionals and students from Asia-Pacific region, BIMSTEC countries, and across the globe through the international capacity building and education initiatives like ITEC, ASEAN, CSSTEAP.

**Madam Chair and Distinguished delegates**

In conclusion, India is harnessing the space applications for governance, natural resources management and supporting International community in utilisation of Space Applications for achieving Sustainable Development.

**Thank you, Madam Chair and Distinguished delegates.**