UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

61st Session, Vienna/Austria, January 29 – February 9, 2024

Statement by the Republic of Rwanda on

Agenda item 7: "Space-system-based Disaster Management Support"

Madam Chair,

Rwanda has recently experienced a heavy rainfall that occurred in May 2023 and caused significant damage and loss of life in different parts of Northern and Western Provinces of the country. The flooding and landslides led to the loss of 131 people, leaving many others injured and resulted to internal displacements of more than 5,000 people. This disaster damaged more than 6,000 houses and public infrastructures (bridges, national roads, schools, etc.), and also affected several farmlands.

As a response to these frequent flooding and landslides , Rwanda through its Space Agency in collaboration and support from other government institutions , has continued to utilize satellite technologies and analytics to regularly monitor and make routine updates on the Early Warning System (EWS) with capabilities for detection and management of disasters that occur due to climate change, hydro- meteorological disasters and other factors.

In response to the flooding and landslides that occurred in Rwanda in 2023 , Rwanda received the support provided by the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, UNOSAT, and UNITAR and we take this opportunity to convey our profound gratitude for the assistance in mitigating the effects of the floods.

Rwanda recognizes the importance of Space Technology and international cooperation in Disaster Risk Management and will continuously provide its full support in addressing this global challenge.

Rwanda continues to seek further collaborations that will enable further advancements in creation of solutions for disaster management through the use of space technologies.

To conclude Madam Chair, Rwanda would like to reiterate that space technology presents high potential in supporting natural disaster management and will continually strengthen its international cooperation and advocate for the use of Space-Based Technology in regard to disaster and climate change management.

Thank you Madam Chair