

**Agenda Item No. 08: Recent Developments in Global Navigation Satellite Systems**

**Thank you Chair**

The Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) technology is increasingly being utilised and harnessed in every sphere of life around the world. In this regard, SUPARCO, as the National Space Agency of Pakistan, has also embarked upon GNSS infrastructure programs to realise its potential and benefit from this technology.

In adherence with Pakistan's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, GNSS technology will play an important role in coastal land subsidence, precision agriculture techniques, digitization of land record and monitoring of national highway networks. Utilisation and further development of this technology will also facilitate in promoting and strengthening industry-academia linkages for GNSS technology incubation

**Chair**

The country's flagship GNSS infrastructure program - Pakistan Space Based Augmentation System (Pak-SBAS) is being implemented by SUPARCO with the support of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA). The System will utilise GPS and BeiDou signals and is scheduled to be in service by the end of 2024.

The system is also envisaged to significantly promote the adoption of precise positioning GNSS services in the socio-economic contributing sectors such as Transport, Food and Agriculture, Infrastructure Development, Disaster Management & Relief, Public Health, Safety and Welfare, and various other sectors of the country.

Furthermore, the planning of other GNSS infrastructure projects such as the National Geodetic Datum (NGD), Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) and Regional Navigation Satellite System (RNSS) is also underway.

**Chair**

Pakistan has always prioritised international collaboration to achieve greater harmony and standardisation of its systems with existing GNSS. As a result, SUPARCO has also presented this flagship program at various international forums such as the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APAC (Asia Pacific) GBAS - SBAS Implementation Task Force (GBAS - SBAS ITF - 5) held

on 21 - 23 Jun at Tokyo, Japan; 63<sup>rd</sup> Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC) Meeting held on 11 - 12 Sep 2023 at Denver, United States of America and 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting of ICAO Navigation System Panel (NSP) held on 05 Dec 2023 at Montreal, Canada.

**Chair**

GNSS technologies have become an integral part of our societies and economies. Pakistan recognizes that satellite navigation systems are playing an indispensable role in socioeconomic growth and sustainable development, and attaches great importance to GNSS applications.

In this regard, Pakistan greatly values the work being carried out by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) which has contributed to sustainable development by promoting cooperation in matters related satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing.

While Pakistan has long been participating in the ICG's meetings as an observer, in 2021, Pakistan applied for its membership in order to further enhance its cooperation with the ICG.

Our application has been 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**

----- **End of Statement** -----