

SUGESTÃO DE PRONUNCIAMENTO - ITEM 11. SPACE AND WATER

DRAFT

BRAZIL, Statement delivered by (Aluísio Camargo - AEB), Delegate to the 65th Session of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Agenda item 11, “Space and Water”, June 1-10, 2022

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies,

Water contributes to economic and social development. Indeed, water supply, sanitation and a healthy environment constitute the basis of successful poverty reduction and shared-growth strategies. Brazil, a country rich in water resources, possesses between 12 and 14 percent of the world's fresh water. Nevertheless, the country is not immune to the challenging effects of climate uncertainties and the risks they bring upon shared water resources.

The increased frequency and intensity of extreme water-related events in Brazil that are owed to the impacts of climate change put people at risk, reduce the reliability of water infrastructure and have consequences for food and energy security. In 2020, 1.1 million people were affected by floods and about 15 million by droughts. In 2021, the depletion in hydropower reservoirs due to a sequence of below-average hydrologic years threatened the electricity supply for 213 million people who rely on hydropower for two-thirds of their electricity. In view of Brazil's continental size, floods and droughts can simultaneously occur in different parts of the country, impacting the reliability of water infrastructure.

Mr. Chair,

Aware of such circumstances, the Brazilian government responded to this call to action and put in place various funding and regulatory mechanisms. In 2019, an investment plan was set out based on 114 actions to be taken by 2035, which should benefit a third of the 74 million people living in areas where water supply is at risk. The 2020 Sanitation Law set conditions for legal clarity and transparency to engage the private sector in water-related infrastructure projects with the aim of building and maintaining sanitation services throughout the country.

Brazil acknowledges the paramount importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in securing our lives and livelihoods. Its specific targets on water (SDG 6) are set to ensure that water and sanitation are available to all, making use of transboundary cooperation as appropriate. Such a goal cannot be achieved without the successful implementation and monitoring of integrated water resources management. Space technology, Mr. Chair, reliable, diffuse and consistent, can support the shaping of policies and management decisions required to address water-related pressing issues.

Enhancing water resilience, strengthening multi-level governance, and building on consistent policies constitute goals that Brazil has been pursuing with indefatigable ambition and commitment. To that extent, the use of space technology has proved to be a critical tool for the efficient use of water and increased agricultural productivity. Earth Observation, in particular, adds to the mapping of surface water resources, the extraction of thematic maps for hydrogeological studies and models, irrigation planning, water auditing and accounting, the identification and forecasting of flooding, drought, and landslides, amid a significant variety of other applications.

Seeking to improve and expand the availability of satellite images, data, and services for the benefit of the Brazilian society, Brazil has been working tirelessly to consolidate national capacities, with a view to design, develop, and manufacture indigenous EO satellites geared to applications of national interest in areas that include water resources, agriculture, territorial surveillance, forestry, and monitoring of environmental disasters. The CBERS satellite program, the result of a long and successful partnership with China is a fine example of such industrious efforts. CBERS data open distribution started in 2004 and fostered an exponential increase in the number of remote sensing data users in Brazil and even in neighboring countries. The positive outcomes of this initiative continue to flourish to date, strengthening the role of international cooperation and collaboration endeavors, adding to the development of a vibrant space industry community in Brazil, and serving other national overarching interests.

Amazônia-1, Brazil's first homemade optical satellite, is another example of the country's pursuit to expand the number of spatial assets applied in remote sensing. The artifact consolidates the sophistication imprinted in previous projects that contributed to the advance and training of the Brazilian industry in the development of a wide range of components, space subsystems and systems qualified for orbital flights.

Additionally, the Brazilian Space Agency has instituted the Catarina Constellation Program, a space system based on nanosatellites to provide environmental and atmospheric data. We are currently seeking national and international partners for this program. At the same time, the private industry is acting on the development of EO nanosatellites, representing the alignment of Brazil's space endeavors with the concepts of New Space.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil understands the criticality of acting to secure and improve water conservation and management. Since we are currently in the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals, it is equally important to make sure that space technology and applications get to play an increasingly consistent role in the shaping of water-related policies and coordinated efforts.

Thank you.

5:58