

## **Check Against Delivery**

### **Agenda Item No. 08:Space for Sustainable Development**

#### **Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement to this important agenda item pertaining to space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

As you know the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace & prosperity by 2030.

The developing countries especially those situated in the Asia Pacific region are facing a number of common socioeconomic challenges, in which water resource management, food security, clean energy generation, education facilities, health care, environment monitoring, deforestation, urbanization & land use planning and natural hazards are the most prominent. However, with the integration of space technology & applications combined with education & awareness programs, strategies can be devised to resolve these issues in an efficient and sustainable manner.

Satellite technology applications are vital in socio-economic development through the provision of timely and reliable information for better decision-making. SUPARCO has been coordinating with national/international organizations for the development of space-based solutions to achieve SDGs. In Pakistan, space data and applications are being integrated into Govt. planning to provide solutions and services in diverse fields such as agriculture, land cover mapping, disaster and environment monitoring, climate change, hydrology, urban planning, etc.

Satellite technology is also effectively being used for monitoring natural resources in Pakistan. The satellite-Based Crop Monitoring System (PAK-SCMS) was developed in the Country in collaboration with United Nations – Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO). The system not only provides a temporal and synoptic view of the cropped area but also provides quick and seasonal crop statistics to the Ministry of Food Security, Government of Pakistan. In the year 2020-21, space-based interventions were made to mitigate the impacts of desert locusts. The purpose of this initiative is to reinforce support for policymakers, planners, and the private Agro sector for food security, stocking, and industrial management.

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### **Mr. Chairman**

The coastal areas and Inlands of Pakistan are highly affected and vulnerable to Climate change, owing to the development of storms and cyclonic activities, sea level rise, land subsidence, and sea intrusion. In this regard, SUPARCO is co-executing a project with the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) titled “Monitoring the Sea Water Intrusion, Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion and Land Subsidence along the Coast of Provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan”. The project encompasses the identification of the cause and effect of seawater intrusion, sea level rise, and land subsidence, in order to develop mitigation strategies by employing advanced sensors & data analytics. In this project, the following activities are being carried out:

1. Establishment of GNSS-based land subsidence monitoring system to closely monitor the changes along 1000 Km coastline
2. Establishment of GNSS-based precision DEM Modeling System
3. Temporal mapping and change detection through Satellite Remote Sensing along the coastline of Pakistan during 1990–2023
4. SUPARCO, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, is implementing a project to monitor and conserve forests using satellite-based technologies. This initiative aims to assess deforestation rates, track forest cover changes, and support effective conservation strategies, contributing in preserving terrestrial ecosystems.

This info generated as the outcome of this project would be very beneficial for sustainable planning along the coastal zone of Pakistan.

### **Mr. Chairman**

The scope of utilization of space technology and applications for achieving socio-economic benefits are unlimited. SUPARCO is applying continuous efforts to increase the indigenous capabilities in space technology and its applications to assist in the sustainable socioeconomic development of the country.

### **Thank you Mr. Chairman**

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