



Statement of APSCO Delegation

at the Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

31 May to 9 June 2023

Boardroom D of the Vienna International Centre

Vienna, Austria

Agenda Item 8. Space and Sustainable Development

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), regarding the Agenda Item No. 8. Space and Sustainable Development, at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation has full trust and confidence in your leadership to steer this committee, and we extend our full support to you and the work of COPUOS. We also extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the acting Director of UNOOSA, and his team, for very efficient planning, and successfully organizing this session.

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO realizes and emphasizes that space tools are highly relevant for the attainment of the global development agendas (that include SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement). Space based tools and application contribute greatly, either directly, as enablers and drivers of sustainable development, or indirectly, by providing essential data for the indicators used to monitor the progress of global development agendas.

We believe that the fulfilment of these global agendas requires improved access to space-based data and applications and space infrastructure, particularly, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

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The “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan being developed under the auspices of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer (COPUOS) is a visionary and forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of global agendas, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

International cooperation is one of the key elements in attainment of the objectives of “Space2030” Agenda and the role of intergovernmental organizations is central to such cooperation. APSCO as international intergovernmental organization provide an effective mechanism through which resources could be pooled and complex technologies and applications could be developed relatively quickly and cheaply for mutual benefits.

Owing to its unique mandate and position at promoting the international and regional cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space and regional governance of outer space activities, APSCO has developed its Vision 2030 in line with “Space2030” Agenda.

I would also like to share that dedicated initiatives have been taken to support Member States for using space application to contribute to SDGs targets, such as, the Data Sharing Service Platform Network (DSSP) project which enables all MSs to access data and satellite images of APSCO and its MSs satellite system. The system has been upgraded to a new level where the Member States have great accessibility to remote sensing data from Member State’s satellites, for example each Member State is entitled to obtain 1000 scenes of archived data per year from Chinese satellites (GF1, GF2, ZY3, ZY02C).

Besides, APSCO has initiated application projects for each MS to strength and better utilization of the network. each Member States brings a pilot project related to areas that contribute to that SDGs: some of the recent project include:

- Evaluation of Different Remote Sensing Techniques for Drought Study led by Pakistan
- Estimation of Rice Field using Multiple Satellite Sensors led by Thailand
- Mangrove Watch from Space, led by Pakistan
- Air Pollution Assessment using Satellite Data: A Case Study of Greater Bangkok, led by Thailand
- Spectral Characterization of Forest Cover for the Evaluation of Amazonian Ecosystems, led by Peru
- Context-Based Satellite Imagery Search Engine (CoSISE), led by Turkey
- Establishing and Operating Flood Monitoring and Warning System Using Satellite Imageries, led by Iran
- Disaster Management System Development and Application Based on Wide Band Multispectral Remote Sensing Data, led by China
- Investigation on the Applicability of Microwave and Optical Satellite Images for Assessment of Major Crop Acreages at Early Stage of Crop Life Cycle Project, led by Bangladesh
- Wildfire Monitoring of Natural Disaster and its Risk Assessment Using the Remote Sensing Methods in Mongolia, led by Mongolia

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Overall, APSCO projects and initiatives are directly contributing to 11 SDGS. APSCO initiatives focus on making full use of the existing space related resources and strengthening inter-connection and resource sharing among Member States

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO remains open to join hands with international community in promoting and developing space-based tools for helping APSCO Member States, and the region in achieving SDGs targets.

I thank you all for your attention.

Aisha Jagirani (Ms.)

Director General

Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs (ER&LA)

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)