

Philippines, Item 15

66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Philippine Statement

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines welcomes with great pleasure the General Assembly's decision to adopt the Space2030 Agenda, which highlights the role of the peaceful uses of outer space in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement.

The Philippines, through its Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), acknowledges the high relevance of space tools to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We further emphasize that improved access to space-based data and applications and space infrastructure are imperative to fulfill the commitments on these global agenda which will address the needs specifically of the developing countries, including the Philippines.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines places great value on promoting the use of space technologies and their applications to enhance scientific knowledge of the natural environment from ridge to reef, for conservation, protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use of the ecosystems.

The Philippines also positions itself to strengthen the use of space applications to facilitate the observation of the climate and the assessment of disaster risks, improve early warning systems for disaster mitigation and provide data for the indicators used to track progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and commitments to the Paris Agreement.

As a display of our commitment, we are delighted to inform our Chair and distinguished delegates that the Philippines, in 2022, signed the charter for Space for Climate Observatory in France, where the Philippine Space Agency currently serves as the national focal point.

The Philippines also recognizes the importance of advancing the role of space science and technology in highlighting, analyzing and addressing climate change and facilitating the transition to low-emission societies, and promote international collaboration in that regard, in line with existing and recognized international mechanisms and organizations. This can be achieved through a whole of government approach including civil society organizations, to realize the commitments to the Paris Agreement, specifically the Nationally Determined Contributions.

In 2019, the Philippines issued a national policy through the Climate Change Commission Resolution Adopting a National Climate Risk Management Framework to Address the Intensifying Adverse Impacts of Climate Change. The use of space science and technology is crucial to provide location specific multi-hazard and multi-scenario probabilistic climate risk assessment to guide crafting of an anticipatory national and local

planning, programming and budgeting to avert the potential losses, damages and disruption.

This landmark policy is likewise connected and important in promoting the use of space-based technologies in all phases of the disaster management cycle, applicable to both natural and man-made disasters, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as monitoring and assessment of elements such as exposure, hazards, disaster risk and damages.

The Philippines underscores the value of data sharing in fulfilling the goals of Space 2030 agenda. With this, the country expresses gratitude and support to the International Charter (Space and Major Disasters), and we are happy to share that the Philippines already is a data provider node member of Sentinel-Asia since January 2023. Also, the Philippines takes this opportunity to acknowledge the utilization of GEMS data for hourly monitoring of air quality in the region.

Mr. Chair,

It is in this context that the Philippines highlights the importance of ensuring that opportunities for capacity-building and international cooperation are available, especially to developing countries, in implementing both legally and non-legally binding instruments in outer space, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through space, and to address global challenges such as climate change.

Our delegation also stresses the importance of a holistic approach towards achieving our shared goals. Thus, with regard to the future role and method of work of the Committee, we encourage the Committee and the Secretariat to continue initiatives and to study ways that enable closer coordination and engagement on the work of the two Subcommittees, and with bodies that are closely interlinked to its mandate, such as other UN bodies and international organizations, when applicable. This will ensure coordinated, relevant, and timely resolution to cross-cutting issues such as space debris mitigation, space traffic management, space and global health, space and climate change, long-term sustainability of outer space, space resources, and on matters relating to the geostationary orbit to name a few.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, Mr. Chair, the Philippine commits to strengthen international cooperation, for which the Committee continues to provide a unique platform in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law, considering the needs of developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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