

India, as chair of ICG-14

Agenda Item – 10

Recent Developments in Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Madam Chair and Distinguished delegates,

Indian delegation is happy to note the importance attached to the topics related to global navigation satellite system by this subcommittee, and by the General Assembly. On this occasion, the Indian delegation would like to update this Sub-Committee on the deliberations of the 14th Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) and the Providers' Forum, which were held in Bengaluru, India, 8 – 13 December 2019.

Madam Chair,

The 14th Meeting of the ICG was hosted by the Government of India. There were over 250 attendees from 10 Member states of the United Nations and the European Union and 10 member organizations.

On behalf of the Government of India, Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space presided over the inauguration of the fourteenth meeting of ICG and delivered a keynote address. Senior representatives of ISRO, including the Scientific Secretary and the Directors of the U R Rao Satellite Centre and the Space Applications Centre, the ISRO centres that are the key contributors to the navigation programme, addressed the meeting. The representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs also addressed the meeting. The inaugural event concluded with an expression of thanks offered by the Director of the Satellite Navigation Programme Office of ISRO headquarters.

The ICG meeting consisted of three plenary sessions and four working group meetings focused on systems, signals and services; enhancement of GNSS performance, new services and capabilities; information dissemination and capacity building; and reference frames, timing and applications. The working groups made substantive progress in furthering the ICG workplan. In particular, the ICG Working Group on Systems, Signals and Services continued to investigate methods to improve system-of-system operations with a focus on the need to assess the adequacy of current orbital debris mitigation guidelines applicable to GNSS. The Working Group highlighted the need for consultation with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) regarding the issue of debris mitigation practices relevant to the medium Earth orbit (MEO)

and inclined geosynchronous orbit (IGSO) orbital regimes used for GNSS and recommended a study to be conducted in coordination with system providers.

ICG also conducted a seminar focusing on the contributions of GNSS for societal and developmental purposes. Presentations were made on the use of satellite navigation in terrestrial and maritime transportation, timing applications, use of pseudolites for aircraft approach and unmanned aerial vehicle guidance, environmental observations and the introduction of the use of NavIC positioning data in mobile phones.

The twenty-third meeting of the Providers' Forum, co-chaired by India and China, was held in conjunction with the 14th meeting of ICG. The meeting highlighted that GNSS offers civil positioning, navigation and timing services throughout the world on a continuous basis. These services are unique with respect to accuracy, availability, and coverage. As a result, GNSS is, and is expected to remain, a core element of existing and future positioning, navigation and timing architecture for most countries.

The ICG accepted the invitation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to host the 15th Meeting of the ICG in Vienna, from 14 to 18 September 2020. The ICG noted the expressions of interest by the United Arab Emirates to host the 16th Meeting of the ICG in 2021.

Madam Chair,

All documents from ICG-14 and the Providers' Forum meetings can be accessed through the ICG Information Portal maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs at ICG information portal (www.unoosa.org). We wish to express our deep appreciation for the outstanding work undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs as the Executive Secretariat of the ICG and its Providers' Forum.

In conclusion, Indian Delegation assures its continued commitment to the ICG global forum in addressing the issues of common interest for Satellite Navigation System providers.

Thank you Madam Chair.