



INTERVENTION BY KENYA ON THE AGENDA ITEM 7. REMOTE SENSING DELIVERED TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 7TH TO 18TH FEBRUARY 2022

Thank you **Chair**, for this opportunity to contribute to this agenda item.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,

1. Kenya's economy relies extensively on Agriculture and Tourism and has an abundance of natural resources, which in recent times have been adversely affected by climate change amongst other factors. Earth Observation through remote sensing technologies and applications provides us with the tools that allows us to monitor change and inform the decision making process in the country.
2. At the Kenya Space Agency, we are keen to spur and support the growth of this sector. In order to catalyze the sector, last year we introduced Research Grants to public universities and private sector to develop solutions on Agriculture and support data collection on land cover.
3. In order to enhance the access to Earth Observation data, KSA has initiated a number of projects to build indigenous capacity in the development of nanosatellites and progressively to much bigger satellites. In particular, we want to thank UNOOSA and Airbus for selecting the consortium comprising of Kenya, Egypt and Uganda to benefit from the opportunity for the deployment of a payload using Airbus Bartolomeo external platform on the International Space Station. Under this opportunity, the consortium will deploy a Climate Camera (ClimCam) to monitor climate change in the region.

Chair,

4. In June 2020, Kenya Space Agency project christened "Monitoring for Information and Decision using Space Technology – MIDST", was selected to benefit from an award by the Group on Earth Observation (GEO)-Google Earth



Engine (GEE) programme that provides support for production licenses and technical support to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges using open Earth data.

5. I am happy to report that we have made considerable progress on the project. The project team last year concluded the development of EO products on a pilot project on monitoring change at the Aberdares forest in Kenya. In January this year, the project team concluded a pilot project that was focusing on Urbanization trends in Nakuru town in Kenya.
6. We are currently constituting the project team that will develop products on Floods and Landslides. Under this initiative, relevant stakeholders in the thematic area are invited to join the project team and participate in co-developing the products. This has gone a long way in building technical capacity of the participating institutions and fostering collaboration.
7. Kenya is seeking technical support and collaboration in development of a data cube for the country, which we feel will go a long way in making Earth Observation data more accessible for decision making.
8. In conclusion, **Chair**, we also want to sincerely thank UNOOSA for initiating the “Access to Space for All” initiative that is providing opportunities to developing countries to access space.

Thank you.