

Agenda item 4:**United Nations Programme on Space Applications****Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates**

India appreciates the efforts and activities of Office of Outer Space Affairs in promoting the UN Programme on Space Applications. Since inception, the Indian Space Programme focuses on utilising space technology for the benefit of society and for the development of the nation. The Indian delegation would like to update on the developments on Space Applications in India.

Mr. Chairman

Space Application programme in India is user-driven, and is implemented through synchronisation of capabilities across the domains of Satellite Communication; Navigation and Earth Observation. Sustainable development, governance and disaster risk reduction are the major areas for which the potential of space applications is being utilised. Further, it provides inputs for meeting many of the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals of UN.

Mr. Chairman

Towards ensuring effective utilisation of Space Applications in the country, the Institutional mechanism is strengthened with active involvement of relevant stakeholders. In alignment with the reforms in the Space Sector being implemented in the country, national earth observation missions are now being realized through cost-sharing by the concerned Ministries or Departments.

Mr. Chairman

India carries out periodic assessment of the status of natural resources such as vegetation, wetlands, biomass, snow & glaciers, corals & mangroves etc., using space inputs. It helps in informed decision making towards sustainable development. Use of Space technology inputs towards enabling socio-economic security, pertaining to the domains of food, water, energy, infrastructure etc. are also being addressed. Space applications are being operationally carried out by the stakeholders for crop production forecasting, horticulture development, potential fishing zone advisory, basin-wise water resources assessment, monitoring of irrigation potential creation etc.

Mr. Chairman

Space based inputs are being used for facilitating transparent and efficient governance in many sectors, for major programmes of the Government. Generation of urban master plans, crop Insurance, rural development, decentralised planning,

watershed development etc. are some of the major programmes where space technology is being used.

The Disaster Management Support programme of ISRO addresses disasters such as flood, forest fire, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones, with space technology interventions for hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, damage assessment, early warning etc.

Mr. Chairman

International Cooperation is pursued for Space Applications through joint missions, collaborative studies, exchange of Earth Observation data, and Disaster Management support. India contributes towards capacity building in space technology applications for professionals and students from Asia-Pacific region through the CSSTEAP centre.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates

In conclusion, India would like to convey that we have developed expertise to take the benefits of space technology applications for national development. India strongly supports widespread utilisation of Space Applications globally.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Distinguished delegates.