

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 8 – Space-system-based disaster management support**  
**Statement delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Sixtieth session, Vienna, February 6-17, 2023

Chair, distinguished delegates,

The devastating impact on human life and economic stability from natural disasters and climate change is becoming a pressing problem for all nations. International coordination and cooperation, through greater access and use of space-based services and geospatial information, is a necessity. Space-based technologies are essential for observing, predicting and assessing the impacts of these events. By providing accurate and timely information to first responders, satellites contribute to saving lives and property from the most devastating effects.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Canada continues to work closely with international partners as part of disaster relief programs, making Earth observation data available in times of crisis, to help with the assessment of the impact and mitigation of the risk from natural disasters. As a country that has benefitted from this program, it has been demonstrated time and again – most recently following the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in Syria and Turkiye – that space-based data can help save lives. Canada actively supports the International Charter ‘Space and Major Disasters’ and will continue to do so in the future. The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" is a collaborative effort initiated in 2000 for the benefit of those in need when disasters strike. It provides a unified system of satellite data acquisition and delivery to communities affected by natural or man-made disasters. With 17 Charter members and 61 contributing satellites from around the world, the Charter allows for resources and expertise to be organized for a quick response to catastrophic events. Member space agencies cooperate on a voluntary basis, with no exchange of funds, and each agency has devoted resources to support the Charter. Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and at no cost to the user, the Charter mobilizes international partners, helping alleviate the effects of disasters on human life and property. Since its inception, the Charter has been activated over 788 times to support disasters in 154 countries. It is important to note that for those States not members of the Charter, access to Charter services can be provided through UNOOSA. As a founding member of the Charter, the Canadian Space Agency has contributed satellite data in response to activations and has provided over 3240 images acquired by its radar satellite systems.

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The expansion of the group of satellites included in the “Charter’s virtual satellite constellation” will effectively increase the quantity and quality of the data available to those who need it. Canada is committed to continually supporting the Charter’s growth and innovation to ensure the best possible support for future disaster events. The coordination of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters is an exemplary model of international coordination. With its Universal Access, 17 space agencies and space system operators, along with 95 national users across 78 countries, have the ability to directly submit emergency requests as Authorized Users.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe. In order to better coordinate emergency response activities during a disaster, authorities around the world will increasingly turn to satellites to provide critical services to society. Canada strongly encourages international collaboration to solve this global problem and reduce its effects on human life, property and economies.

Thank you for your kind attention.