

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA**

**Statement**

**By the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**at**

**The Sixtieth Session of the SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL  
Subcommittee of COPUOS**

**Agenda item 8: disaster management support**

**6-17 February 2023 Vienna, Austria**

**“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”**

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen**

Iranian space sectors are playing a crucial role to provide space-based information for disaster monitoring and risk assessment in the country. Our effort to develop comprehensive and agile space-based solutions to support our disaster responders is growing synergistically by public-private partnerships. In 2022, Iran faced a range of disasters from major wildfires in the northern to a massive earthquake in the Southern provinces.

**Mr. Chairman,**

From early May to late September 2022, as a result of climate change and destructive human interference, we have witnessed around 84 cases of wildfire across forest in the north and western part of the country. It's worth mentioning that by using public satellite data and dedicated monitoring system, the major fire points had been early detected and the information were disseminated to concerned departments for emergency response and rehabilitation process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Iran is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, being crossed by several major faults that cover at least 90% of its territory. Accordingly, earthquakes in Iran occur often and are mostly destructive and it is well known for its long history of disastrous earthquakes. These earthquakes, not only have killed thousands of people, but they have also led to waste of valuable resources. Hence, earthquake disaster risk management has been of paramount importance to government among any other disaster events.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Space technologies such as satellite remote sensing, satellite communication, and global navigation satellite system have great potential to contribute in earthquake risk management plans, as they can effectively monitor and manage wide territories at comparatively low prices. Iran has been trying to apply these technologies on its territory and region based on the lesson learned on the occasion of past disasters. The most recent example of using space-based information for earthquake risk management and emergency response, is providing related information for 6.2 Mw earthquake that occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. Different maps and reports related to the situation and damage assessment were provided to relief operators through collaboration with Copernicus Emergency Management Services. According to our end-user in National Disaster Management Organization, the space based information was useful for rescue operation and resource allocation in recovery process.

**Finally Chair,**

To reaffirm the role of international cooperation in space program, Iran has always put a strong attention to collaboration with Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) through capacity building, technology and application development. As a host for UNSPIDER's regional support office (RSO), we have strong commitment to raising awareness for using space-based data for disaster risk assessment as well as being practical among the first respondent to any major disaster event in the country as well as the region.

**I Thank You Mr. Chairman.**