

**Scientific & Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee
on the Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
60th Session, Vienna, Austria
6th – 17th February, 2023.
Agenda Item 8**

SPACE-BASED TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



STATEMENT BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Mr Chairman,

1. Nigeria is satisfied with the progress made so far by the committee on the use of Space-Based Information for Disaster Risk Management and the endorsement of the General Assembly that this Committee continues to deliberate on the issue of **Space-Based Information for Disaster Risk Management** on its agenda for the 60th Session. This is indeed commendable and Nigeria will continue to give her full support in addressing this global challenge.

2. Mr Chairman, Nigerian is home to over 200 million people. The country has its own share of wide ranging disaster events which include, annual floods, coastal and gully erosion, oil spills and pollution, road traffic, fire incidents and human induced disasters with strong nexus with competition over deteriorating land and water resources driven by climate change and variability.

3. Spaced-based technologies contribute to all phases of the disaster management cycle, including prevention, preparedness, early warning, mitigation, response and recovery. Remote sensing data provides information for systems and models which can predict disasters and provide early warnings. Recently Mr Chair, space based technology has played a very important role towards supporting Nigeria's disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

4. Mr. Chairman, with the view to promoting the use of space technologies in disaster risk management, emergency response and recovery efforts, the UNSPIDER mission team visited Nigeria in September, 2022 and organised an inter institutional workshop in collaboration with NASRDA / NEMA /UN-SPIDER RSO and the Centre for Remote Sensing of Land Surface of the University of Bonn, Germany (ZFL) on "The Use of Space-Based Information for Flood Response and Early Warning" from 12 to 14 September 2022.

5. The event which was attended by 104 participants from 30 institutions, contributed to raising awareness on recent developments made by the space community regarding its efforts to contribute to disaster response efforts worldwide. It promoted advances made in areas of Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) and better coordination and deployment of resources for more efficient and effective life saving operation.

6. Mr. Chairman distinguished delegates, Nigeria typically experiences seasonal flooding, but the flood of 2022 was the worst in the country since the 2012 floods. The flooding was caused by heavy rainfall triggered by climate change as well as the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in neighbouring Cameroon. The flooding which affected most part of the country, displaced over 2.4 million people, killed over 650 people, and injured more than 3,181 persons. About 174,281 houses was damaged, and 676,945 hectares of farm land was affected.

7. Nigeria activated and received support from the International Charter, Space and Major Disaster in September and October 2022 in response to the flooding across the country. My delegation will avail itself this opportunity to express our sincere appreciate to the Charter and UNOOSA for the support received in containing the impact of the floods.

8. Our experience in Nigeria has proved that the impact of floods and other extreme weather events driven by climate change both locally and internationally calls for a rethink on how to fast-track space based disaster risk management support.

9. In conclusion Mr Chairman, Nigeria will continue to appreciate and support the progress made by the **Scientific and Technical Committee of COPUOS** over the years towards fostering cooperation between developing countries and the advanced nations of the world. We will continue to deploy our strategic position in Africa to continue to advocate the use of Space-Based Technology for disaster risk management for the benefit of humanity.

Thank you Mr Chairman.