

STSC 2023 – 60th Session

Item 6 – Remote Sensing

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Israel attaches great importance to remote sensing, as both means to improve life on earth through earth observation and its applications, as well as a means to promote space science and education. Remote sensing therefore plays a big part in Israel's space strategy, and its current and future programs.

In this regard, Israel's flagship program is the "Venus" Satellite – an earth observation satellite in high resolution, jointly built with the French Space Agency, that is able to provide imagery to assist in environmental monitoring. The satellite is expected to continue its operation beyond its original time, through 2025. Just recently, in October 2022, a joint research between Israel and the United Arab Emirates was launched based on the data provided by Venus.

As space becomes present in our daily lives, so do we believe it could be used to improve them. In this respect, remote sensing can be used to greatly assist in dealing with earthly issues such as climate change, food insecurity, energy and transportation, [and as we experience today, helping disaster management](#). Israel spares no efforts promote these issues. During COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, we organized a unique side event to focus on mitigating climate change using space assets, and just last week, during Israel's annual space conference, we held a special panel on climate change, bringing together Government, Academia and the private sector. We will continue to lead these efforts in 2023, with an active participation in GLOC 2023 in Oslo, and COP28 in Dubai.

As we move forward, Israel sees big importance in promoting the use of remote sensing technologies on the Government level, and we see the Israel Space Agency as the main driver of this process. For the reason, the agency is planning to develop and construct the Israel Space Data Center (ISDC), to act as a central repository for its remote sensing data, to be collected, analyzed and disseminated for a variety of customers. It is our vision that remote sensing data should be used in all sectors, and the Governments should lead by example.

Finally, We recognize that in space it is important to cooperate on an international level, and we extend our hands to develop further cooperation with our allies, and hope to use this unique platform as a space for such discussions.

Thank you.