Building back better after COVID-19: addressing cascading risks and systemic gaps for resilient peoples and economies

Concept Note

Side Event with UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) – Celebrating two decades of satellite imagery applications for enhanced disaster resilience

26 August 2021, 12:30-13:40 hrs. (UTC+7, Bangkok time)
Venue: Teleconference via MS Teams

Background

This event will be organized during ESCAP’s third Disaster Resilience Week from 23-27 August 2021 under the theme “Building back better after COVID-19: addressing cascading risks and systemic gaps for resilient people and economies.” It will celebrate UNOSAT’s 20 years of satellite imagery applications and ten years of partnership with ESCAP, highlighting past and ongoing achievements for enhanced disaster resilience.

Since 2001, UNOSAT has been providing satellite imagery-based solutions and capacity development to UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and member States in support of the achievement of the SDGs. UNOSAT is active in crisis response, sustainable recovery, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and building climate change resilience. On its 20th anniversary, the United Nations Economic and Social Council approved a resolution recognizing UNOSAT as the United Nations Satellite Centre.

In close collaboration with ESCAP, UNOSAT established its regional liaison office in Bangkok in 2012 to extend capacity development and analytical support to ESCAP member States. Benefiting from the partnership with ESCAP, UNOSAT has held numerous learning events and workshops in 15 countries in the region, reaching over 850 participants.

UNOSAT has recently renewed its partnership with NORAD, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, to strengthen capacities in the use of geospatial information for improved resilience in the Asia Pacific. This includes 6 ESCAP member States. UNOSAT will be contributing to implementation of ESCAP’s Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030), which is an inclusive and country-needs driven blueprint to harness space and geospatial applications and support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The new project of UNOSAT aims to strengthen knowledge, skills and awareness related to DRR, climate resilience, environmental preservation and food security activities and programmes, as well as enhanced evidence-based decision making for SDGs implementation. UNOSAT, together with NORAD, plan to launch the project during the side event.
Spurred by the accelerated adoption of digital innovations, many countries in the Asia-Pacific region are leveraging geospatial information to provide timely evidence and insights for their responses to disasters. In addition to UNOSAT, ESCAP is working together with a number of other partners, through the Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP), to make geospatial data, tools, and innovations accessible, available, and affordable to all.

Guiding questions

1. What are past achievements and future perspectives in the use of satellite imagery for disaster risk management?
2. How can digital innovations and modern technologies like big data analytics, and AI be practically used and adapted in countries that are not tech leaders to solve complex problems related to disaster resilience and sustainable development?
3. What challenges need to be addressed and what are the recommendations to enhance regional cooperation to address these challenges?

Moderation

Mr. Khaled Mashfiq
Regional Liaison Officer
UNOSAT Asia-Pacific Regional Liaison Office

Opening Remarks

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace
Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
ESCAP

Mr. Einar Bjørgo
Director, United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Panelists

1. **Ms. Raksina Lekthanoo**
   Chief, International Relations Division
   Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA)

2. **Mr. Shivanal Kumar**
   Climate Adaptation Specialist
   Climate Change & International Cooperation Division
   Ministry of Economy, Fiji

3. **Mr. Keran Wang**
   Chief, Space Applications Section
   ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP

4. **Mr. Luca Dell’Oro**
   Chief, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Section
   United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)
Tentative Agenda (12:30-13:40 hrs.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 min.</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
<td>Moderator: UNOSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min.</td>
<td>Remarks by UNESCAP</td>
<td>Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction Division, UNESCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min.</td>
<td>Remarks by UNOSAT</td>
<td>Einar Bjørgo, Director, United Nations Satellite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Centre (UNOSAT), UNITAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 min.</td>
<td>Presentations by Panelists (each 5 min.)</td>
<td>Moderator: UNOSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 min.</td>
<td>Questions and Answers session</td>
<td>UNESCAP, UNOSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min.</td>
<td>Wrap up and Closing Remarks</td>
<td>UNESCAP (Keran Wang) UNOSAT (Luca Dell’Oro)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date and Meeting Mode

Venue: Teleconference via MS Teams
Date and Time: Thursday, 26 August 2021, 12:30-13:40 hrs. (UTC+7, Bangkok time)

Invited Participants

✓ National Focal Points of RESAP
✓ Beneficiary countries of UNOSAT including UNOSAT Alumni
✓ Cooperation partners

Registration link: [https://forms.office.com/r/91RKYnhBEN](https://forms.office.com/r/91RKYnhBEN)
or scan QR code


MS Teams meeting link for joining the side event: [Click here to join the meeting](https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/side-event-un-satellite-centre-unosat-celebrating-two-decades-satellite-imagery)

Contact Information

Ms. Aline Roldan
Capacity Development Expert
United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)
Email: aline.roldan@unitar.org

Ms. Patricia Budiyanto
Space Applications Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction, ESCAP
Email: budiyanto@un.org, escap-sas@un.org