

**79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia  
and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  
Draft Philippine Statement**

***Agenda 4(d): Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary  
structure of the Commission: Disaster risk reduction  
As of 29 April 2023***

***To be delivered by:  
Director Ariel C. Blanco, D.Eng***

Madam Chair,

We wish to express our deep appreciation for your leadership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which has led to achievements in enhancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience-building in the region.

As a member of the global space community and an emerging space-capable nation, the Philippines reiterates its commitment to promoting and enhancing DRR efforts. The country's DRR Committee in ESCAP is fully engaged in improving its disaster resilience, preparedness, and response capacities through a range of programs that includes community-based disaster risk reduction, capacity building, and early warning systems.

We strongly believe in the need for regional cooperation mechanisms to strengthen disaster risk management and resilience-building. Such mechanisms facilitate the sharing of best practices, resources, and expertise, leading to more effective and efficient disaster response and recovery efforts.

The Philippines is grateful to have benefited from such cooperation agreements and mechanisms. In response to the Mindoro oil spill, the Philippine Space Agency requested assistance from Sentinel Asia, which was escalated to the activation of the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters. This allowed space agencies and commercial companies from different countries to contribute satellite data for mapping and monitoring the extent of the oil spill over time for more than a month.

The Charter Operational System (COS-2) Platform of the International Charter facilitated effective monitoring, enabling tasking requests from the PhilSA to various satellite operators worldwide, with the Charter Mapper allowing visualization and processing of satellite imagery without the need to download the data. The data and information generated and shared were then used by various Philippine government agencies in assessing environmental and socio-economic impacts.

In the future, the Philippines, through the Philippine Space Agency, will consider expanding its reach to cover other vital aspects, including regional cooperation for multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation, climate adaptation and resilience,

integrated multi-hazard risk assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks, including mitigating cascading risks related to biological and other natural hazards, and disaster information management and multi-hazard early warning.

The Philippines strongly believes in international cooperation as a mechanism to collectively improve and develop capabilities in various sectors and sub-sectors benefiting from remote sensing and its applications. As an emerging space-capable nation, the Philippines remains committed to supporting the Commission's efforts in utilizing space science and technology to achieve and realize the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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