

**Comments of Pakistan Representative during 79th Session of ESCAP
(Virtual Session under Agenda item 4i)**

1. Pakistan attaches great importance to the use of space technologies and its applications in achieving the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Pakistan is the country to adopt SDGs 2030, through a unanimous resolution of Parliament. Pakistan has also ratified Paris Climate Agreement and is a state party to Sendai Framework on Disaster Mitigation. Our ratification and acceptance of these agreements is an indication of our commitment towards sustainable development.
2. Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) being the national space agency of Pakistan, is determined to utilize and promote the use of space technology and its applications for achieving sustainable development targets in the Country. During 1st Phase of Plan of actions, Pakistan has undertaken total 21 actions. These actions comprises of several projects for ministries and government departments related to space applications under thematic areas of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, Management of Natural Resources and Climate Change.
3. Pakistan faced serious implications of climate change in the form of Mega floods in last year especially at southern part of the country. SUPARCO provided space based information to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) during all phases of natural disaster management namely preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Besides provisioning of real-time spatial information, SUPARCO also provided technical assistance to PDMA for conducting Multi Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Analysis (MHVRA) studies in most vulnerable districts.
4. Satellite Based Crop Monitoring System (PAK-SCMS) was also developed in the Country in collaboration with United Nations – Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO). The system not only provides temporal and synoptic view of the cropped area but also provides quick and precise crop statistics to the Ministry of Food Security.
5. Satellite technology is also effectively being used for monitoring of forestation campaign in Pakistan. With repeated forestation campaign there is a significant increase in the Mangrove forest of Pakistan. SUPARCO is working in a collaborative research project with Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) with the aim to monitor the changes in Mangrove Forest from the past three decades. All such efforts contribute towards SDG 13 – climate action and SDG 15 – life on land.
6. Pakistan is making continuous efforts to increase the indigenous capacities in space technology and its applications to assist in socio-economic development of the country. By and large Pakistan has so far made efforts to contribute in most of the SDGs and we are constantly making efforts to develop space

solutions to all possible areas of SDGs while seeking international partnerships and collaborations.

7. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of UN-ESCAP for regional cooperation among member states in First Phase of Plan of Actions and I hope this cooperation will also continue in Second phase of Plan of Actions with same spirit.
