

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

***Agenda 4(i): 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: Information and Communications Technology &
Science, Technology and Innovation
As of 29 April 2023***

***To be delivered by:
Deputy Director General Gay Jane P. Perez Ph.D.***

Distinguished Chair,

The Philippines extends its gratitude for the work done under your leadership of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

As we gather today, it is with great concern that we acknowledge the gaping digital divide in the Asia Pacific region. In light of this, the Philippines reiterates the crucial role of enhancing the accessibility and utilization of geospatial data and technologies in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is in this light that the Philippines reaffirms its unwavering commitment to proactively support the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Our initiatives are steadfastly aligned with the priority areas of the Second Phase of the Plan of Action.

To this end, an enhanced network of international actors committed to leveraging space-based technologies and data is pivotal to the strengthening of phase II of the Plan of Action. We take great pride in introducing the National Copernicus Support Action Program for the Philippines or CopPer. This pioneering cooperation initiative in our region aims to strengthen the utilization of Copernicus EO data for disaster risk reduction and climate action. PhilSA will facilitate the access and distribution of this EO data, complementing and augmenting our current national space data mobilization efforts.

Moreover, PhilSA remains steadfast in empowering local communities to utilize such data. Our PhilSA Integrated Network for Space-Enabled Actions towards Sustainability (PINAS) fosters and cultivates an active network of government, industry, research, and civil society actors across the country to work towards sustainability using space data and information.

On the regional level, we envision the Philippines to be among the active contributors to its cooperation efforts. Through the support of our regional partners, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the UNESCAP, the Philippine Space Agency leads the implementation of the PAPGAPI-PAN Philippines Project. This technology

transfer, data-sharing, and capacity-building initiative on air pollution is paramount in addressing the pressing environmental concerns of our region.

We fully recognize that a well-trained regional science and research community is crucial to the effective use of its data and its implementation. Thus, we actively participated in the PAPGAPI-PAN and GEMS capacity-building activities in Korea, Thailand, and Mongolia, and have also conducted a training program to local stakeholders on the utilization and applications of GEMS for air quality monitoring. We are scaling up this initiative to scientists and researchers from the Asia Pacific.

Furthermore, our Space Infrastructure, Know-How, and Applications Acceleration through Promotion and Training (SIKAP+) project enables us to further enhance scientific cooperation among members of the Asian Microsatellite Consortium and the Joint Global Multi-Nation Birds Satellite, and other emerging space actors.

As we move towards a more sustainable future, PhilSA recognizes the increasingly important role of youth and other emerging stakeholders in building a sustainable regional space ecosystem. In support of this vision, PhilSA actively took part in the co-organized side event Future Generation: Multi-Stakeholder Roles for Strengthening Space Applications and Sustainable Development. Alongside the youth and other regional stakeholders, we highlighted concrete initiatives to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific using innovative space applications.

In closing, the Philippines remains firmly committed to supporting the Commission's efforts in utilizing space science and technology as a mechanism to achieve and realize the SDGs for the benefit of the current generation and the generations to come.
