Fourth Session
Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation

Agenda Item 6

Use of Digital Technology and Geospatial Information Systems to Enhance Resilient and Sustainable Development

ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/5
I. First phase implementation

- Countries in the region have recognized the benefits of applying geospatial information across multiple sectors for sustainable development;

- The first phase of implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) has promoted the adoption of space and geospatial information applications across six thematic areas.
Knowledge products: from manuals to real experiences

- Compendium 2022 on geospatial practices with a focus on South-East Asia will be launched during the 4th Ministerial Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26 October 2022.
Satellite-derived data and products

- In 2020-2022, facilitated the timely provision of 450 GB of satellite imagery and products to disaster-affected countries through the Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP) network and in collaboration with the UN Satellite Centre;

- All data and services free of charge; the commercial value is estimated at around 1 to 1.2 Million USD per year.
Capacity Building: integration of data from space and ground

- Integrating spatio-temporal information for monitoring local SDG implementation
- Monitoring air pollution from space in Asia
- Drought monitoring training for Central Asia
- Mapping flood and wildfire risk hotspots through innovative digital applications
- Innovative tools for plastic pollution monitoring
- Geospatial information platform for COVID-19
- Resilient agriculture in the Lower Mekong Basin
- Sponsoring young professional officials to study post-graduate courses on remote sensing and GIS for disaster management
- A series of Youth Forums on Innovative Geospatial Information Applications will be organized by Indonesia in 2023-2024.
II. Space+ for our Earth and future: transcend conventional space applications and accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action
4th Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development
26 October 2022, in Jakarta and online

- Co-organized with BRIN - National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia

- Jakarta Ministerial Declaration: Way Forward

- Three regional cooperation initiatives proposed by BRIN Indonesia on:
  - Virtual satellite constellation for disaster risk management
  - Rapid mapping of disaster hotspots through machine learning and digital innovation tools
  - Youth Forum on SPACE+ for our Earth and future

(Endorsed by the 26th session of ICC on RESAP with offers of support from six countries)
Upcoming milestones:

- The 3rd meeting of the Informal Working Group (12 September)

- Circulation of draft Declaration to all members and associate members through respective Seats of Government by 15 September, for further comments and a 3rd reading as needed, by members and associate members, by 14 October

- Adoption of the silence procedure by 15 October

- Ad-hoc ICC on RESAP in Jakarta (24-25 October).
Matters for consideration by the Committee

- The Committee may wish to discuss the above recommendations and submit them for further consideration at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Jakarta and online on 26 October 2022.

- To guide the secretariat’s current and future work, the Committee may wish to consider how to increase access to and better leverage digital technologies and innovations to further strengthen the contribution of space applications to the achievement of the SDGs as envisioned in the Plan of Action, mindful of the growing use of geospatial information and digital technologies in the region and the potential development of new and innovative applications.