Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to take the floor on this important agenda item on ‘Scaling up the use of space applications to deliver sustainable development goals’.

Sri Lanka, having played an important role in formulating the ‘Asia Pacific Plan of Action on space applications for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2030’, will always remain firmly committed to its successful implementation.

Amongst the multitude of measures taken to implement this plan of action at the national level, I am pleased to share with this committee that we are in the process of conducting a national survey on application of space technologies for sustainable development. This survey is undertaken by the Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (ACCIMT) as the national focal agency for space technology applications, with a view to facilitating the optimal harnessing of the potential of space technology applications by public agencies in Sri Lanka’s national efforts in sustainable development.

Outcome of this national survey is intended to generate vital policy inputs that will guide and inform the implementation strategies undertaken by the participating national agencies – which are either current substantial users of space applications or potential users.
Mr. Chairman, Sri Lanka has also made significant advances in multiple fronts of science, technology and innovation in mobilizing its potential to combating the Covid 19 pandemic.

A significant achievement that has been made in this regard is the development of a smart electronic bio-sensor for rapid detection of Covid 19, which has been developed at the ACCIMT, and has already been laboratory-tested successfully. This was shown in this morning’s video clip.

Mr. Chairman, in the area of capacity building in space technology applications, let me also take this opportunity to appreciate the measures taken by the secretariat to arrange opportunities for Sri Lankan engineers, scientists and technologists to undergo training at specialized training centres overseas, including CSSTEAP.

Sri Lankan delegation also wishes to record its strong support for the integrated geo-spatial information framework for sustainable development. We also support the establishment of a regional geo-spatial information platform for sharing of data and knowledge in addressing the future challenges in achieving SDGs. We also take this opportunity to place on record our sincere appreciation of the excellent efforts of the Secretariat in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.