



69th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Statement by Australia

Agenda Item: 12 – Space and Climate Change

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

Climate change is a defining global challenge, and space technologies are indispensable in the coordination and realisation of our response to it.

It is important to maintain our focus on realising the full potential of these technologies as we all look to the critical UNFCCC COP-31 event in Türkiye later this year, an event for which Australia has the role of President of Negotiations, and for which the Pacific will play host to critical Pre-COP events where data, information and science will be important elements.

While the role of space in climate monitoring is well established, it is essential to recognise that space-based technologies like positioning and Earth observation are equally critical to climate action more broadly. Their potential to support both **mitigation** and **adaptation** is significant but, in many areas, underutilised.

Access to advanced satellite imagery and geospatial data can improve environmental monitoring and disaster response.

Space-based capabilities underpin emissions accounting, inform carbon markets, enable smart energy grid management, underpin efficient transportation, support renewable energy forecasting, and enhance the planning for resilience of infrastructure and communities. These applications are vital to delivering practical, scalable solutions and adapting to climate challenges.

Realising this potential requires close collaboration between the **public and private sectors**. The growing contribution of commercial actors is welcome, but public infrastructure remains foundational and plays a key role to improved **interoperability, trust, open standards, and coordinated data access** – all key factors in lowering barriers to use and ensuring that complementary datasets are effectively utilised.

Chair,

Australia has a longstanding record of using space to support climate action. Initiatives such as the **AquaWatch**, the **Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)** and the **Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM)** and our contribution to **Early Warnings 4 All**, exemplify our practical contributions to global efforts. We are continuing to invest in new capabilities – through programs

such as the **Earth Observation Program** and **Positioning Australia** – to further leverage space technologies in support of climate outcomes.

Australia is also committed to **sharing our data, tools, and expertise**, and to partnering with others to ensure that our investments deliver benefits beyond our borders, including at global and regional scales including in the Indo-Pacific.

Chair,

Addressing climate change necessitates a global effort involving the collaboration of relevant organizations and expertise, working in a coordinated manner to achieve consensus. This includes not only the United Nations system, but also expert bodies such as the **Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)**. The **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**, the **Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS)**, and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. These groups play a critical role in operationalising strategies and delivering practical outcomes, and their work must be collaborative, supported and integrated at a political level.

Australia is honoured to the **Chair of CEOS this year**, and to hosting the major annual Plenary meeting in Hobart in November. Hobart is Australia's gateway to Antarctica, and the Plenary will provide an important opportunity to focus attention on the role of space data in supporting polar climate science.

More broadly, the Plenary will be an opportunity for the world's space agencies to come together and ensure that space-based data is effectively applied to support climate action – including through the consideration of support for adaptation and resilience to environmental changes and hazards, and the adoption of an ambitious new strategy to ensure greater access to Analysis Ready Data, from both government and commercial missions, that enables more communities, businesses and governments to benefit from the significant investments that have been made in space assets.

Chair,

Australia looks forward to working with all Member States and partners to ensure that space technologies continue to serve as a powerful and practical tool in our shared response to climate change, resilience and adaptation.

Thank you.