

ITEM 11: UK STATEMENT ON SPACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The UK is delighted to be assuming the Presidency of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), in partnership with Italy, later this year.

During the past three decades, climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority, and space is playing an increasing role in enabling us to monitor and tackle climate change.

The UK's expertise in the analysis and exploitation of climate data from satellites supports the development of global policy on climate change and our collective efforts to reach Net Zero. The UK is also working with partner organisations and specialised bodies such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), to make sure that the importance of space-based climate action is properly represented at COP26.

In the field of Earth Observation, the UK funds and helps deliver work at the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as through bilateral missions and national programmes. These programmes range from technology innovation to applications, and the use of Earth Observation and other tools for decision making.

The UK works through ESA on programmes that will help us understand and tackle climate change. Missions like Far-infrared Outgoing Radiation Understanding and Monitoring (FORUM), which will measure radiation emitted by Earth into space, will improve climate models and, therefore, climate prediction.

Also through ESA, the UK is leading on the TRUTHS mission, which will create a space-based climate observatory, helping to understand changes in balance and the human impact on the planet.

TRUTHS will not only make measurements itself, but also improve the performance of other missions allowing rigorous testing of model forecasts to support decision-making on climate strategies. It will enable a 10-fold improvement in accuracy of data, which will halve the time required for making decisions.

The UK is working bilaterally with France on the MicroCarb mission which is the first European mission designed to intended to characterise

greenhouse gas fluxes on Earth's surface. Monitoring the data will allow us to anticipate how ecosystems will react to global warming.

The UK Space Agency's International Partnerships Programme (the IPP) plays a significant role in tackling climate change.

The IPP uses UK expertise in satellite technology and data services to deliver sustainable benefits to developing countries that are seeking to increase their capacity to respond to global challenges such as climate and disaster resilience and deforestation.

Furthermore, the UK Space Agency supports educational and outreach programmes, including this year's UNOOSA Space4Youth Competition, where the focus was on "Space as a tool to foster climate mitigation and adaptation".

Alongside this, the UK Space Agency co-funds and chairs Space4Climate, a public-private-academic partnership, which brings together those with expertise across government, industry and academia in the development of satellites, analysis, exploitation of data, and production of data and climate services. Space4Climate supports the UK's climate community to deliver and make use of climate information from space.

The UK believes that only through multi-stakeholder partnerships can we collectively tackle climate change, and we encourage international and regional organisations to work together to understand their comparative advantages and avoid duplication.

As an immediate reaction to the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Austria, I would like to add the UK's voice to request UN-SPACE to conduct a strategic reporting exercise of their ongoing activities, mandates and presences, and report back to the 65th session of COPUOS in 2022.

Within COPUOS, the UK has been a leading advocate for the development of a Space 2030 Agenda, a valuable tool to help countries to use space-based applications to achieve their SDG commitments. **We are delighted that delegates have been able to agree to the Space2030 Agenda.**

The UK is looking forward to the World Space Forum that will be hosted by UNOOSA and Austria in December, focusing on the theme of 'Space and Climate Action', and where the UK will lead some of the sessions.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates, these are just a few examples of how the UK is using space to tackle climate change. We believe international collaboration is crucial to address the climate crisis and we look forward to engaging further and working with all nations in the run up to COP26 and beyond.