



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TO

**THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
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**TO BE DELIVERED BY:
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AGENDA ITEM 8: SPACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Chairperson,

It is a great pleasure for South Africa to provide comment on this important Agenda item.

Following our last report on South Africa's efforts through our national Space Agency, SANSa, we are delighted to inform you that, in relation to SDG Target 11.1, SANSa recently established a service level agreement with the National Department of Human Settlements to provide access to high spatial resolution images and human settlements' products including informal settlements. In this regard, the Agency will be providing the Department, the provinces and the municipalities with data required to monitor informal settlements and the necessary development projects.

Furthermore, SANSa has since finalised the project with the said Department, Statistics South Africa and UN-HABITAT to compute SDGs Indicator 11.3.1: *Ratio of land consumption rate (LCR) to population growth rate*. This indicator was achieved through the utilisation of a Human Settlement Layer Detection Tool, which makes use of high spatial resolution satellite imagery to derive the data.

Chairperson

South Africa is proud to inform you that the indicator was included in the 2019's South Africa SDG report; and that this collaborative work was recognized by the GEO Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG)'s awards. It is worth noting that the GEO SDG Awards particularly recognised the productivity, ingenuity, proficiency, novelty, and exemplary communications of results and experiences in the use of Earth observations to support sustainable development.

Chairperson

I would like to highlight that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, SANSa has been working with the Department of Small Business Development to provide geospatial services to promote and develop entrepreneurship, small businesses and

corporatives, thus contributing to economic growth of the country. The work provides an opportunity to create awareness on the value of EO in decision making in new and unfamiliar application areas. The deliverables include dashboards that utilise EO base products and other geospatial data used in decision making during planning of infrastructure required to support businesses and entrepreneurs.

Chairperson

SANSA has also been working with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), an association of local governments, towards integrating EO data in measuring performance of the municipalities and in understanding their landscape.

Additionally, SANSA has started focusing on the promotion of Earth observation products in District Development Model, a method that recognises districts as joint areas for planning, budgeting, and implementation. Engagements with the district municipalities have commenced, with special emphasis on the rural municipalities to create awareness and training on the use of satellite images; and its derived products to support infrastructure development, service delivery and monitoring of National Development Plan outcomes.

In closing, Chairperson, South Africa, continues to look forward to hearing from other nations to ensure our country's relevance in this important topic.

Thank you for the opportunity.