

Final Declaration by Asia-Pacific Space Leaders on Applications of Space Technology to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. We, the representatives of the space technology community in Asia and the Pacific and members of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) who have convened through the regional platform provided to us by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at the Asia-Pacific Space Leaders Forum held in New Delhi, India on the 2nd of November 2016, hereby adopt the following declaration.
2. We acknowledge the contributions of space technology applications in addressing sustainable development and disaster risk management in the region and recognize the potential of space technology applications to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and COP-21.
3. We recall the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled “The future we want”,¹ and the strong acknowledgement of the potential role of space applications for sustainable development. This document formed a basis for ESCAP Resolution 68/5 on the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.
4. We reaffirm that space applications are now an integral part of disaster risk management by providing early warning alerts for impending disaster, allowing the modelling and forecasting of different disaster scenarios, providing valuable and timely information that can save lives during emergencies, and giving us the means to evaluate and monitor redevelopment efforts to ensure that resilience is achieved and maintained in order to better manage disaster risks.
5. We acknowledge that the institutional frameworks, cooperation mechanisms and technical capacity of the space community that has been developed in the Asia-Pacific region has great potential to address disaster risk management while playing a central role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as support the monitoring of related global goals and targets.

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

6. We undertake to share good practices from our own experiences and to support other countries to access and effectively utilize space technology applications, by offering our spacefaring capabilities, technologies, tools, geo-spatial information & services, capacity building & development opportunities as appropriate, including through regional cooperation mechanisms such as RESAP and its collaboration with AOMSUC and IN-MHEW.
7. We reconfirm the relevance of ESCAP's RESAP for bringing together the space community in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also encourage greater engagement with new institutions such as the ESCAP's Asia and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM).
8. We support the preparation of a new Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Space Applications, 2018-2030 by ESCAP Secretariat; to focus on how space technology applications and RESAP can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the implementation of the Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework – the outcome of the Seventh Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR).
9. We recommend that the draft plan to be brought for endorsement at the Inter-governmental Consultative Committee of RESAP in 2017 and subsequent adoption at the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications to be convened in 2018 and/or the ESCAP commission in 2018. We further encourage Member States to consider hosting the Ministerial Conference.

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