India

Agenda item 16

Space and Global Health

Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,

India is passing through a demographic and environmental transition which is enhancing the burden on public health resources and infrastructure. Close to 70% of Indian population lives in rural areas with limited access to healthcare. India faces a wide variety of health related challenges in ensuring availability of good healthcare to the rural population which is sought to be addressed by use of space based technologies.

Madam Chairperson,

Indian Delegation would like to inform this august body that improvement in the standard of living and health status of the population has remained one of the important objectives in Indian planning. Our health system has limited resources and capability, so our effort is to maximize the efficiency of the available resources in the health system using such technology.

The tele-medicine system is operational for rural and remote areas of India and has been very much useful for connecting the populace in these areas with specialty hospitals. In the recent past, tele-consultation facility between pilgrimage places enroute within the Indian territories has been also realized.

Using Space technology for GIS mapping of diseases particularly in relation to their geographical distribution has been done successfully for mapping of village level ecological risk of malaria; niche modelling for Kala-azar; early warning tools for malaria; early warning system for the outbreak of Japanese encephalitis, etc.

Another important project taken up and ongoing is to create a web-based and geo-mapping enabled single platform of all the health resources, both government and private, which inter-alia includes, hospitals, diagnostic labs, doctors and pharmacies, etc., and will comprise of the data on health infrastructure, human resource and the availability of medical facilities in each health establishment in the country. This will provide access to comprehensive and standardized information of both private and public health resources on a single platform. This is first effort in the country to map spatially the government and private health care resources so that proper decision can be taken to strengthen evidence based decision making. The census of health resources is carried out in paperless mode using a Tab based App, having 7000+ attributes.

More than 20 lakhs healthcare establishments spread across 25 lakhs enumeration blocks will be mapped in 707 districts of the country. A pilot for 5 districts of India has been also completed as a proof of methodology using Bhuvan NHRR module

Utilisation of geospatial technology platform for mapping of herbal gardens of India (medicinal plants) is also being carried out.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to convey this esteemed gathering that India has developed the necessary expertise to take the benefits of space technology for the common man's health in the large parts of rural India.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.