

Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session

30 August – 1 September 2022

Agenda 6: Use of digital technology and geospatial information systems to enhanced resilient and sustainable development

U.S.A. - Country statement

Session 6:

- We welcome the secretariat's report on the Use of Digital Technology and Geospatial Information Systems to Enhance Resilience and Promote Sustainable Development. These programs show the ability of open data and cross-border collaboration to achieve development goals and look forward to further discussions of activities proposed by other delegates.
- The United States has supported a number of programs that harness the power of public geospatial datasets for development.
- For example, the United States will continue support for YouthMappers, a global community of students, researchers, and educators across 65 countries and 320 universities using public geospatial technologies to support development advances worldwide. YouthMappers prioritizes women's economic empowerment, digital mapping literacy, and youth engagement, and it currently works on mapping solutions associated with climate, urban services, and electric power access.
- Similarly, SERVIR, a joint initiative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and leading geospatial organizations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, has used satellite data and geospatial technology, to co-develop innovative solutions through a network of regional hubs to improve resilience and sustainable resource management at local, national and regional scales.
- We were grateful for the collaboration between SERVIR-Mekong and ESCAP on a program "Enhance the Capacity of ASEAN Countries to Improve Air Quality for Better Health Outcomes" on May 17 - 19, 2022. This training helped to scale the success air quality monitoring work in Thailand to the wider region through an online training on basic remote sensing for air quality monitoring for sixty participants from South and Southeast Asian countries. This training raised awareness and enhanced the regional capacity of policy makers and the scientific community to scale up SERVIR-Mekong's air quality work.
- These projects show the power of demand-driven, co-developed, inclusive, sustainable projects to lead to lasting change for communities across the Mekong and Himalayas.