

## **Nigeria Statement**

I am here to represent the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu who is involved in another International assignment.

Nigeria has a Space Agency, National Space Research and Development Agency which is under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. It was established to foster development in area of space science, technology and its application for sustainable development and economic independence. Nigeria has launched three Earth Observation Satellites (NigeriaSat-1, NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X) and one Communication Satellite (NigcomSat-1 that was de-orbited and was later replaced by NigcomSat-1R).

Since the establishment of the Agency, it has been building capacity of its staff in areas of space engineering and sciences, while also operating with various universities to develop the capacity of Nigerians in the use and application of space science and technology. Researches in carried out in the applications of space technology in the areas of environment, water resources, agriculture, disaster management, urban development and security. Data from earth observation satellites are made available to Nigerian Universities for free to help students carry out research and understand the use of satellite imageries, while the university lecturers were encouraged to use it to solve local problems.

Nigeria is part of the UNCOPUOS,(United Nation Committee of Peaceful uses of outer Space) DMCi,(Disaster Monitoring Constellation 1) DMCii and African Resource Monitoring Constellations. It is also a member of GEO (Group of Earth Observation) and GMES. (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security). As a member of Disaster Monitoring Constellation, we have contributed our data to the campaign on Amazon and also made such available for other parts of the world during the carter calls. Presently Nigeria represents the Regional Support office of the UNSPIDER.(United Nation Space-based platform for disaster Management and Emergency response). Data collected is used by the Military in their operations to combat the crisis arising from Boko Haram.

Nigeria is happy to announce that it is a member of the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF), African Leadership Conference and African Union Space Technology Committee. We are therefore here to support the efforts of the forum as it works with Africa**

**Thank you for listening**

