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Agenda - **Advancing Colombia's Space Policy for Global Benefit at UNOOSA**

“The sky calls to us. If we do not destroy ourselves, we will one day venture to the stars.”

– Carl Sagan  
  
Space exploration is a significant test for humanity, and failing to pursue it sustainably and ethically is not an option. Space exploration is a catalyst for nations to build mutual understanding and trust, and international partnerships that advance common exploration goals.

Space tools are crucial for promoting a more equitable, just, and sustainable planet, and they need to be made more accessible. In Bogotá, Colombia, citizens are facing severe drought conditions, leading to emergency water rationing due to historically low levels of rainfall. Reservoirs like Chuza and San Rafael, vital for supplying 70% of the city's drinking water, are critically low, with capacities decreased by 20% compared to historical averages. Though not as severe as in Bangalore or Mexico City, this situation presents significant challenges to water supply and requires urgent action.

Hence, Colombia firmly advocates that space technology offers unprecedented opportunities to mitigate the impacts of water scarcity and build resilience against future challenges. The Space4PWater Project, launched in 2018 currently has 48 stakeholders, including private and non-profit organizations. This project launched by UNOOSA aims to visualize water scarcity on large and small scales, measure and monitor access to water, improve hydrologic monitoring, contribute to water conversion and pollution control by building water quality information services, standardize EO analysis for use in legal forums, raise awareness of the potential space technologies for water management worldwide and so much more. Presently, 1.1 billion people lack water access, and 2.7 billion endure water scarcity for at least one month annually. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will confront water shortages. The SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation shows that 2 billion people worldwide live-in countries experiencing high water scarcity, and four billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month per year. Colombia calls for increased funding, government collaborations and partnerships, laws for improved data access and infrastructure and policy support for the Space4Water project to assist its global motives.

Furthermore, addressing water scarcity is central in achieving all 17 SDGs. Colombia urges UNOOSA and its member states to prioritize the integration of space-based solutions into environmental policies and initiatives. For instance, the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission’s (TRMM) Microwave Imager exemplifies the use of space technology for water resource management and in China, space data aided in efficiently managing need-based water release during dry seasons.

Space technology stands as our greatest ally in the global fight against water scarcity and in promoting sustainability on a worldwide scale.

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