



# BPW International

Report from UN / EWL / COE representatives

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<b>UN Agency, EWL, or COE</b>	<b>UNCTAD</b>
<b>For the period of:</b>	November 7-8 <sup>th</sup> 2019
<b>Date submitted:</b>	Attended 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Meetings, Activities, Contribution (e.g. statement / workshop) during the reported period:**

**UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international collaboration in this context**

The panel has examined issues related to the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. Findings and recommendations of the panel are expected to be considered at the twenty-third session of the Commission, to be held in March 2020.

Space technologies and remote sensing are not useful in themselves but create new technologies and tools that can be applied in the fields of agriculture and environmental protection and support SDGs in developing countries. Space is global, but has global, national and regional aspects.

Copernicus ([https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/space/copernicus\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/space/copernicus_en)) is the European system for monitoring the Earth and is coordinated and managed by the European Commission. The development of the observation infrastructure is performed by the European Space Agency for (removed “the”)space and by the European Environment Agency. Its objective is to enforce autonomous Europe's capacity to watch the Earth and offer a free, full and open public service, free of charge. In March 2019 registered users were 210,914.

It consists of a complex set of systems which collect data from multiple sources: It processes this data and provides users with reliable and up-to-date information. The [services](#) address six thematic areas: land, marine, atmosphere, climate change, emergency management (natural disasters) and security (borders and migration). They support a wide range of [applications](#), including environmental protection, management of urban areas, regional and local planning, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health, transport, climate change, sustainable development, civil protection and tourism.

Since 1998, CropWatch (<http://www.cropwatch.com.cn/htm/en/index.shtml>) has served as China's leading crop monitoring system. The CropWatch research team, part of the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences, assesses national and global crop production and related information using remote sensing and ground-based indicators, provided by local actors. The resolution is 10 m in Europe thanks to Sentinel and 200 m in Africa. It reports on food production estimates, recent disasters with an impact on agriculture. It presents global, national, and regional agroclimatic conditions and the conditions of crops growing or harvested at the time, and that for seven major agro-ecological zones, the regional impacts of pests and diseases as well as trade prospects. The objective is to predict the yields of major crops in the entire world. The biomass is calculated on local measurements of soil moisture, precipitations, land use by crop. Cropwatch is easy to use, and customized for local conditions in local languages, it is implemented in 149 countries, and promotes ownership in developing countries. It helps local actors to take decisions in a context of lack of quick, reliable and accurate information about the situation (level of drought,

etc.)

**F Finding resources or opportunities that can benefit BPW members:** none

**Other comments :** Beware that China has put up a system to observe agricultural yields in the entire world, especially in Africa, but also in US... where their food comes from!