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LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARTER ON SPACE AND MAJOR
DISASTERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE OPEN DATA TREND**Abstract**

This paper aims to provide an overview of the current framework of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, its institutional set-up, access and activation conditions, as well as the conditions according to which relevant data and information products are provided to the authorities or other subjects requested them. It will provide a brief overview of the open data principles that have been adopted for dissemination of data from at least some of the currently active satellite Earth observation assets or systems. Within this discussion, however, the development of commercial satellite Earth observation capabilities and their implications will be addressed as a “counter-trend” and a type of activity to be taken into account.

The paper then assesses the long-term viability of the Charter on Space and Major Disasters in the light of the open data trend that is growing stronger and underlies data provision activities of at least public sector bodies in more and more countries. Based on the analysis, the paper will attempt at providing recommendations with regard to any identified issues that might need to be taken into account in the future to ensure functioning of the Charter of Space and Major Disasters in a manner that is fully beneficial and delivers the best result to its participants and particularly those activating it.