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International Cooperation for the benefits of developing countries and emerging space nations (1)

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ESA'S PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMMES AT THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY

Abstract

The exploitation of space activities is fundamental to human and economic development in any society. These benefits are widely recognized in developed markets and more and more emerging ones are capitalizing on their utilization. This paper will focus on the ways the European Space Agency (ESA) is using space technologies and applications to support developing nations helping reduce the gaps between different regions in the world. Today, ESA is building new partnerships with non-space organizations, let them be private businesses or international organisations, to co-develop programmes using European space assets to foster sustainable economic and/or societal development goals. These goals are best described in the 17 United Nations' sustainable development goals to be achieved by 2030, to which ESA, through many of its partnerships programmes is contributing to. Several ESA existing initiatives, ranging from the use of capabilities of earth observation, telecommunications and navigation platforms, will be examined in an integrated fashion. Practical examples will be provided in domains as diverse as capacity building, education, healthcare, crisis management, weather and climate monitoring, water recycling and sanitation etc. Last a reflection on how the socio-economic impact of such projects should be tackled is carried out to identify what metrics are most appropriate to implement for measuring a project's success.