

17th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON VISIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE (D4)
Contribution of Space Activities to Solving Global Societal Issues (2)

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SPACE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS 2030 IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Abstract

At the heart of global societal issues lies the network of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These interconnected goals and their associated targets present a framework for achieving a better, more sustainable future for all by issuing a call to action to address major global challenges across a range of areas including basic needs and poverty, education, health, employment, justice, and many others. This is equally true in Africa and Latin America, where dire needs remain in the context of the SDGs. While these two continents made great improvements in terms of the earlier Millennium Development Goals, it nevertheless remains true that while progress was made, it was slow and uneven. In response to this, the post-2015 development agenda places a stronger focus on Africa for example, while responses from that continent have coalesced around the aspirations embedded in Agenda 2063. Space applications can, and do, play an indispensable supporting role in achieving the 2030 development agenda, and this recognition has recently been encapsulated in "Space2030" put forth in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. An important consideration in this regard is taking into account the great diversities in geography, environment, development, and technical capabilities across the African and Latin American continents. Because the SDGs cannot stand in isolation, but also rely on regional and national development strategies for their implementation, the discussion will also reflect on these, for example the abovementioned Agenda 2063 in the case of Africa. As such, this paper will discuss and present pertinent examples of how space activities have contributed to addressing societal issues relevant to the SDGs in these regions. Suggestions for further embedding of space activities in service of societal goals in light of "Space2030" will also be provided.