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International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a “Space2030” agenda (1)

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EASAR: RUSSIAN PRIVATE INITIATIVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract**

In September 2015, more than 150 world leaders met at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This new agenda including an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support economic growth, improve social inclusion, and advance environmental protection, was created on the successes of the original Millennium Development Goals, and officially came into force in early 2016. In more details, they cover the areas of: education, economic growth, industry and infrastructure, responsible consumption and production, global partnerships, and others. The professionals from diverse industries have evaluated how to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and the space sector has emerged as one key supporter for those working to advance these goals. The trends in the space industry and emerging technologies ensure this critical contribution to the SDGs will continue to increase rapidly in the coming years. Space infrastructure and assets represent an extremely valuable tool. Despite the already common use of satellite technology and data and the growing potential of the industry to contribute even more, knowledge and use of this technology remains somewhat confined to a subset of development professionals—a situation that needs to be remedied. The space sector needs to continue to expand its support of these ambitious goals. The growth of the small satellite industry is particularly encouraging in terms of coverage and cost as well as the fact that many start-up companies have made improving conditions on Earth an integral part of their mission. This paper presents the Easar initiative which is not only focuses on keeping space sustainable but also on maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of using space for the benefit of humankind including taking a strong interest in promoting the use of space technology and data for the SDGs. One of priority targets of the Russian private initiative is to find ways to improve the use of space systems for human benefit and to develop collaborative measures to address shared challenges.