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Is Space R&D Truly Fostering A Better World For Our Future? (2)

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SPACE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SPACE4SDGS): MAPPING THE  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPACE TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract**

In 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, 17 Goals and 169 associated Targets were designed as a set of guiding objectives for a more sustainable future to be inherited by future generations. Space plays a key role in the achievement of many of these objectives. Many projects initiated to advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda make use of, for example, satellite-based earth observation, positioning and navigation, or communication services, satisfying the technological requirements of social, economic and environmental needs such as monitoring environmental impacts of climate change or increasing the resilience of communities through improved disaster management and mitigation.

In the past, there have been a number of initiatives by different space agencies and other institutions to align projects with the SDG framework such as the joint work of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GSA) aligning Copernicus and Galileo related projects to the SDGs, or the European Space Agency's (ESA) publication of a comprehensive catalogue compiling space-based projects supporting the SDGs at Target level. Nevertheless, contributions of the space sector as a whole and with a differentiation of the various underlying space technologies have not yet been mapped in a holistic manner. Despite this lack of systematic mapping of alignments of space contributions to the SDGs, there are many possible benefits warranting such an undertaking. For example, the insights gained through contributions mapping can inform strategists at various levels on the availability of space technologies as tools supporting endeavours towards the 2030 Agenda's achievement. On the other hand, those working on the development of space technologies may be informed about sustainability-related areas currently not making use of space technologies and, consequently, where possible future applications may be explored.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is working to put its own catalogue online, the Space Solutions Compendium, which will aggregate information from the ESA catalogue and other space agencies based on a thorough mapping of alignments of space contributions to the SDGs. This presentation will provide an overview over the methodology for aggregated mapping of space contributions to the SDGs used for the creation of an initial version of the Space Solutions Compendium.