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

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EUROPEAN SPACE ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Abstract

Space activities have become central to policies of sustainable development in Africa and Latin America. This paper highlights the use and contribution of space activities for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), focusing on interregional cooperation between Europe, on one hand, and Africa and Latin American, on the other hand. The analysis will include elements of international cooperation in the space sector, emphasizing the steady growth of related space activities, elaborates on the benefits to the civil society, the local industry sectors and the advantages for the development of space infrastructure in these continents.

Research focus is given on cooperation in space activities between European and African space actors and emerging nations. Since the EU is Africa’s biggest partner in terms of investment, trade and development, the pertinence of the international cooperation for space related activities will be underlined. The contribution of space in achieving the aspirations, goals, and priority areas set in the African Union Agenda 2063 will be discussed in view of an even more sustainable development in Africa, taking into account the African Union’s policies for digital transformation, sustainable growth, employment, migration and mobility. Moreover, an overview of the EU’s and Africa’s strategies in space activities will be given including prospering examples of the EU, European Space Agency and the German Aerospace Center financing projects and space applications in Africa. In addition, the cooperation between Europe and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) will be analyzed from the perspective of CELAC Working Plan. Therefore, this paper will be a comprehensive, well-founded, and analytical compilation of space activities and endeavors involving Europe, Africa and Latin America.