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

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THE GLOBAL SPACE INDUSTRY ACCELERATOR EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Abstract

Space has become one of the major industries in today's world. Space technology and applications has given humanity many advantages and solutions in improving the quality of life, and tackling key challenges. In the last period, Investment in the space sector has grown significantly. Private sector entities and start-ups has found this as an investment opportunity, by developing and working on innovative enabling technologies and on-Earth applications. The UAE realized the importance of the space sector, and its role in as driver for socio-economic sustainable development, and supported it growth. With the increase of the space activities and investments in the space sector, the UAE aimed at establishing a regulatory framework to regulate the sector, and to plan and implement a number of initiatives to enable the space sector, and to ensure its sustainability and alignment with the national agenda and priorities, and to serve as an enabler to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2020, the UAE Space Agency has launched the Global Space Industry Acceleration Program (GSIA) in collaboration with Krypto labs. The program aims to foster and support innovative space start-ups with the partnership and support of international space agencies, RD partners, experts, public and private entities, to nurture a sustainable space industry. It covers the value chain of entrepreneurship and innovation from ideation to growth to maximize the value-added for all beneficiaries and ensure high impact and returns. Space applications and data are fundamental for achieving the SDGs. This initiative has contributed in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in multiple aspects, starting from capacity building to improving communications as driver for growth. This paper will showcase the GSIA efforts in supporting and achieving space sustainability, with the direct and indirect impact in alignment to the sustainable development goals.