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

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SPACE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVES

Abstract

The complexity that climate change brings is well documented and its impacts on critical areas such as agriculture, water and land management, disaster recovery, education and economy, future solutions will require advanced technological approaches, including space-based technology. This work follows from previous research presented at 27th IAF Workshop and 70th IAC 2019.

The space-based technologies are inherently necessary to enhance and ensure the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. While satellite platforms already exists for Earth Observation and climate monitoring, global access to this data and information is still limited. Less advanced countries, like Eastern European countries, still lack the adequate expertise, technology and access to the data in order to develop and enact SDGs. As a result this author is working towards establishing Non Governmental Organization and developing a space-based application for harvesting, processing and distributing environmental informational data for public use, research and education. However, further support is needed to allow for grassroots efforts like this one to step in and provide the solutions for domestic policy and societal applications, like advanced climate early warning system, public health and safety and environmental health. International cooperation is crucial here for connecting, growing and enhancing these efforts and organizations outside of political structures. With the support of relevant stakeholders in the industrialized nations who are likely to buy-in to space-based technology in addressing SDGs, the benefits of satellite and environmental data would be optimally shared with less advanced nations, like my home-country, Serbia.

In this presentation three things will be addressed. First, highlighting the challenges faced by scientists and experts trying to provide solutions to urban and environmental stressors. Secondly, approaches using scientific and data based applications to target ecological and environmental concerns. Lastly, this research will identify international and policy frameworks and mechanisms that is necessary to achieve 2030 Agenda. International opportunities for supporting and growing non-governmental efforts are also vital to reaching optimizing SDG outcomes.