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SPACE DIPLOMACY: BLUE ECONOMY FOR A GREEN FUTURE

**Abstract**

Recalling the UN COPUOS decision to develop a ‘Space 2030’ Agenda, this paper will analyse documentation addressing its four overarching objectives structured around four pillars: Space Economy, Space Society, Space Accessibility and Space Diplomacy – which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

As International Cooperation in Outer Space Affairs is an esteemed principle well established in UN Space Treaties, Declarations and Resolutions, this paper will also assess the extent to which its ‘Space 2030’ Implementation Plan – via Partnerships, Tools and Resources - responds to international calls for more cross-sector cooperation, enabling common goals by ensuring contributions from emerging space nations, considering the different level of development and expertise of different nations and stakeholders.

Global Diplomacy is increasingly important for Space-Ocean Governance and Portugal is indeed the single-European country holding the largest maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) - in the Atlantic.

Space-Ocean Diplomacy has often been on the Agenda of Portuguese Foreign Policy as Space-Ocean Governance is progressively gaining importance both at EU/global level and to reinforce the importance of this global cause, Portugal co-organises the United Nations Conference on the Oceans with Kenya, hosting it in June 2022, in Lisbon.

Nations cannot afford to miss the call of a ‘Space-Ocean Interactive Cause’ for the future of humanity. With the same ambition with which other nations give priority to the Moon or Mars exploration, it is also time (on Earth) to dive into the deep sea to further discover that still vast unknown ‘Universe of Knowledge’, to expand Space-Ocean Interactions and greatly benefit from its abundant richness.

Also in line with its ‘Portugal Space 2030 – A Research, Innovation and Growth Strategy for Portugal’ (2018), and its (national) ‘Defence Strategy for Space 2020-2030’ (2021) and its (regional) ‘Strategy of the Azores for Space’ (2022), Portuguese governments have approved, and are gradually implementing, a series of legislation establishing the regime of access and exercise of space activities, also regulating some insurance and liability issues, in a commendable attempt to present Portugal as a space-nation commercially attractive as well as internationally competitive. Hence, this paper will also provide an overview of Portuguese as well as multilateral space related policies and plans.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SGD) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future (for all) and the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the UN Ocean Conference are also an opportunity to inspire the global development of Space-Ocean affairs, pledging: ‘Blue Economy For A Green Future’ (for all).