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SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SPACE2030 AGENDA: A DEVELOPING
COUNTRY PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

In its 2022 - 2032 Science, Technology and Innovation Decadal Plan, the South African Department of Science and Innovation explores how science, technology and innovation enable inclusive, sustainable South African development in a changing world. Space sciences and technologies are cross-cutting in nature, and these have a critical role to play towards addressing development challenges nationally (poverty, unemployment and inequality) and globally by contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Space2030 Agenda.

International cooperation has been an enabler in maximising the use of national infrastructure to address not only local challenges, but also mutually held socio-economic problems with a global dimension. The paper will explore how international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space can address socio-economic challenges and provide benefits to all of humankind for a better life on Earth. It will look at specific strategic bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes and projects and how they are being used as a tool for sustainable development, and how science diplomacy can facilitate reciprocated sharing and joint development of large science, technology, and innovation infrastructure.