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SPACE APPLICATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON EARTH : EXPERIENCE OF
THE COMPACT AGREEMENT INITIATIVE

Abstract

In January 2024, submitted to the United Nations a zero draft of the Pact for the Future. The said pact notes that the global perils we are facing today “far exceed the capacity of any single State to manage alone”. The said pact notes that in our approach, we should be guided by “the principles of trust, equity, solidarity, and universality” and that science and digital technologies should be used for realization of the 2030 Agenda, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms. It also noted the potential of space as a major driver of the Sustainable Development Goals. The potential for space applications in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals has already been noted in the Space2030 Agenda. However, the Space2030 Agenda does not provide for allocation of funds or modus operandi for using space technology for sustainable development on earth.

Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space (ACES Worldwide) is a non-profit organization that partners with public and private space entities to find innovative solutions to urgent space challenges and opportunities, to benefit all humanity. ACES Worldwide is working with a broad range of Alliance partners to develop and enter into “Compact Agreements” related to a broad range of U.N. Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. These Compact Agreements which are usually between a space provider and a space user addresses one or more of the sustainable development goals by using space technology. These non-binding Compact Agreements include information such as the name of the entities involved, proposed long term and short term developmental goals, space technology used, etc. The pilot project of the Space and Sustainability Compact Agreement initiative in South Asia has seen agreements for safer, sustainable and more efficient fishing (Goal 2) and expanded primary and secondary education services via satellite tele-education (Goal 4). We are also exploring expansion in South and Central America.

In this paper, we will discuss the experience of ACES Worldwide in carrying out the Space and Sustainability Compact Agreement initiative, the challenges faces and the lessons learnt. This experience will be beneficial in entering into future compact agreements which we believe is a remarkable way to implement the Space2030 Agenda.