

Remarks from

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on the occasion of

Paris Peace Forum

11 – 13 November, 2020

Today, the value of space technology and data for socio-economic development is beyond doubt. Research from UNOOSA and the European Union shows nearly 40% of the targets underpinning the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are reliant on Earth Observation and Global Navigation Satellite Systems. With SatComs included, this percentage is even higher.

The role of space for our lives is being recognised more than ever. We now have over 80 national space agencies. In 2020 alone more than 1,000 new satellites and other objects have been registered with UNOOSA, and it is still only November. This is far above previous annual records and represents almost 10% of all objects ever launched since 1957.

With such increasing investment and global dependency, maintaining a stable, safe and sustainable space environment is more fundamental than ever. That is why platforms like the Paris Peace Forum are so important. Because it is only through open dialogue between all actors, both public and private, that we can find, and expand, the common ground required.

We have solid foundations to build upon. The existing normative framework governing space activities has supported over 60 years of growth. These rules of the road have produced many well-established practices, such as information sharing on space activities, that are making crucial contributions to building the trust, transparency and confidence we all need in space.

As exciting new chapters for space open up and there is, of course, always more to do. We must expand reciprocal trust aiming at a peaceful and prosperous space environment. This is what we all want. We need to deepen the transparency levels that show our commitment to the cause and we have to maintain the confidence that we can achieve anything when we work together. This is the only way space will keep delivering such rich benefits for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you.