

ESA Statement at the 66th COPUOS session

Agenda item 8. 'Space and sustainable development'

05 June 2023



1. Since it is the first time this session that the European Space Agency takes the floor let me first commend you, Mr. Chair, on your excellent work leading this Committee. Let me also appreciate and thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the professional preparation, support, and guidance. The European Space Agency would like to express a very special thank you to the acting Director, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his decade-long outstanding work for the Committee, for UNOOSA and in support of COPUOS State members and observers.
2. Besides satisfying our curiosity with science and research and enhancing our knowledge on the universe, it is especially the practical applications of space and its technologies that generate added value to our societies. Space technologies offer a wide range of tools measuring developments on a regional, national and especially global scale. With space technologies a tremendous amount of information is generated that decision makers are asked to use towards a sustainable development on Earth and facing the global issues of the 21st century such as climate change, natural disasters, food security or desertification.
3. Furthermore, space technologies provide infrastructure and dedicated applications that support citizens, companies and local authorities carrying out their daily duties. Examples range from marine and costal resources management, over e-learning in rural areas to an improved safety and security in public gatherings. As an international organisation ESA has the responsibility to use its technologies for the further development of societies' needs. The European Space Agency therefore has developed a wide range of programmes that help achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone on Earth.
4. To provide a comprehensive overview on these applications and to make space solutions available to all, ESA has implemented a transversal catalogue collecting hundreds of different activities from all ESA Directorates and Programmes and aligning them with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By doing so it was the first space agency in the world to structure and present its activities along the UN SDG's.
5. It is therefore our sincere pleasure to inform the Committee on the recent collaboration the European Space Agency entered with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs: Based on the concept of ESA's Catalogue on Space supporting SDG's an UN-based Compendium was developed that lists hundreds of space projects which support sustainable development goals. As a comprehensive information depository, the Compendium contains detailed information on the projects, its objectives, the technologies used, companies and organisations involved and Points of Contact.

6. What makes the UNOOSA Compendium on space supporting SDG's unique, is its openness. All COPUOS State members are invited to contribute to the Compendium and to integrate their space projects that help us achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is the sincere wish of UNOOSA and the European Space Agency to make it a living Compendium and a valuable source of information especially to emerging space nations and developing countries.
7. The Compendium on Space supporting SDGs will officially be inaugurated and announced this Wednesday, at a joint side-event by UNOOSA and ESA, at 9:15 in Conference Room 3. All COPUOS State Members and observers are invited to attend the inauguration.
8. Thank you very much Mr Chair.