

COPUOS Legal Sub-Committee

Adriano V. Autino's speech, on behalf of the Space Renaissance International

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2030 is considered, by many, as a key year. The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development was conceived in 2015, with 2030 as a deadline for the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, specifically designed to overcome the social and environmental issues that are threatening civilization, putting it at risk of a catastrophic irreversible implosion. Natural threats such as asteroid impacts, solar flares, super volcanoes, and ice ages shall be considered too.

The Space Renaissance International 3rd World Congress, in, in 2018, identified the kick-off of **Civilian Space Development before 2030 as the key factor** to relaunching social growth at all levels, reversing multiple crises, and rekindling hope in the future, an essential condition for civilization survival and further progress.

We conceived then, as a logical follow-up, what we have called the 18th SDG, to be added to the U.N. 2030 Agenda: **“Space for All, a civilian-led space development, on Earth and beyond.”** The Space 18th SDG clearly indicates space development as the essential sustainable development goal, without which all of the existing 17 SDGs may represent just another unfeasible utopia. The 18th SDG should then be considered a universal social goal, to be communicated to, and well supported by, civil society and public opinion. The Space 18th SDG proposal is also done in memory of the late David Dunlop, who conceived it first, in 2018.

SRI invites all Peoples of Planet Earth to join the coalition of the Space 18th SDG!

Space Renaissance International and the National Space Society, with nearly 100 international partner space organizations, urge UN COPUOS State Parties to develop and introduce a resolution for a **Space 18th Sustainable Development Goal**.

Space development and sustainability of development are strictly interconnected. To start developing beyond Earth is key, to relieve our planet's environment from the burden of industrial development, reduce pollution, and favor wildlife. Sustainable space development is a critical key issue as well. Orbital debris represents an increasing risk for space navigation and could close us into a cage, enchaining humanity at the bottom of the Earth's gravitational well. Irresponsible management of wastes, on Earth, in orbit, and on the Moon, may result in show-stopping conditions for space development itself. Conversely, skills and experience earned in space – such as total recycling, circular economy, and vegetable cultivation in closed environments -- may help sustainability on Earth too. Space 18th SDG promotes full synergy between space and Earth sustainable development.

While all 17 SDGs are valuable, we should consider the interdependence among them. Goals 7,8, and 9 on energy, industry, and economic growth sustain all of the other social and

environmental objectives. Sustainable progress hinges on giving these key enabling goals a higher priority, as they provide the foundations and catalytic role for achieving the UN SDGs by 2030. There's no social progress without industrial and economic growth.

Yet, industrial growth on Earth conflicts with the environmental goals (13, 14, 15).

As they are, the 17 SDGs are not sustainable.

They will be sustainable only if an 18th goal will be added: to kick-off a civilian-led space development, before 2030.

Paramount importance is to realize a few meaningful steps, to ensure human development's full sustainability, in Space and on Earth: 100% reusable launch vehicles, protecting life and health from space radiation, experimenting with simulated gravity, orbital debris salvage and reuse, asteroid, and lunar mining, producing fuel in space, and green environments in space habitats.

If **undertaken before 2030**, these steps will restore the necessary psychological fortitude to the peoples of Earth, to overcome the many risks of this age: environmental collapse, global war, resource scarcity, and social decay.

The conflicts and upheavals that plague our world underscore the urgent need for visionary initiatives capable of inspiring hope and solidarity across borders. The incoming cis-lunar economy is a great opportunity for all people of planet Earth to join the human effort to expand our world into outer space, in a 100% inclusive mode.

The *not-yet-spacefaring* countries and the *space-emerging* countries do not need to go through the long and slow road traveled by the forerunners **if they can profit from the know-how achieved by the forerunners**. Brilliant minds are born everywhere on our planet, and everywhere some of them may make a difference! Such a combined development process may be called a *permanent space revolution*, welcoming new dealers and stakeholders each day.

In line with the principles enshrined in the United Nations, which recognize development as an inalienable right for all, we advocate for the expansion of opportunities beyond our planet's borders. By extending the reach of human civilization into space, we not only enhance our capacity to achieve the existing SDGs but also lay the groundwork for a more resilient and equitable future for generations to come.

As a final statement, SRI will work to bring the U.N. Space branch – UNOOSA and COPUOS – to become more widely known by society at large, beyond the space community, as space is a key tool for sustainability, and it is currently almost absent in the U.N. public narrative.