

# The role of industry in the new Global Space Partnership for SDGs Challenges and opportunities

Giovanni Rum

Senior Consultant to OOSA

UNOOSA Industry Symposium “Expanding horizons: the case for industry engagement in UNISPACE+50 and beyond”, Vienna – 6 February 2018

# UNGA Resolution 70/1 of 25-09-2015

## Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The recognition of the key role of industry and a clear request for its full and visible inclusion in the 2030 Agenda

- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.
  - *(specific)*17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships ....  
*omissis...*
- Point 67. Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation... *omissis.....*

# Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the four pillars of UNISPACE+50

From the “Sustainable development perspective” one may link the four pillars as follows:

- Space Accessibility and Space Diplomacy are the “basic” enablers;
- Space Society is the ultimate goal.
- Space Economy and Space Society are intimately linked and are an integral part of the economy and of the society.
- Developing the Space Economy is a prerequisite to achieve the benefits that underlie the Space Society.
- Space (sustainable) Economy is therefore the essential and mandatory step providing a clear case for investing resources to access space and ensuring that benefits can actually be delivered to Society and, ultimately, to people.
- There is a urgent need to define, implement and use a global framework, open to the participation of public and private actors, to fully exploit the value and the benefits for the Society coming from exploring, understanding and utilizing space.

# Space Industry (not only...)

- “Industry” is a broad term that covers a wide array of companies with diverse products, services and business models.
- two broad categories of providers of space assets:
  - providers of infrastructure and data;
  - developers and providers of services.
- But, we should not forget industry as an “end user”

# Mutual benefits

- There is a shared understanding that not only the public sector, but also the commercial sector (“industry”) benefits from the use of space infrastructure and services developed with public funds (free and open access to EO data, GNSS systems, ..).
- Private sector engagement would bring additional expertise and resources in all domains associated with development and use of space assets as well as additional political support for ensuring continuity and sustainability.
- These mutual benefits provide additional background to the need and the opportunity to define a suitable framework to allow and encourage private sector contributions to support SDGs achievement.

# Benefits to the partnership (ultimately to countries)

- Industry engagement as suppliers and users of infrastructure, data & information
- Development of Products and services supporting the SDGs achievement
- Help filling capability gaps through private investment
- Provide operational services in support of long term commitments
- Bridge to other industrial sectors (energy, agriculture, transportation,..)

# Benefits to space industry

- Ensure access to publicly-funded infrastructure and data (in the case of EO this would mean promoting a free and open data policy).
- Increase companies awareness about institutional opportunities and plans
- Raise awareness amongst governments of industry's technical capabilities and help co-ordinate between public (including research) and commercial interests.
- Understand public sector needs by maintaining a constant dialogue and interpreting these needs into future system or product capabilities, also through joint R&D if necessary).

# Encouraging space industry to join the Partnership

- Reference in the background:
  - Medium/long-term sustainability
  - Meaningful contribution to Partnership activities in supporting the countries achieving the SDGs
  - Balancing the interests of the public and private sectors
- Upfront investments in space infrastructure and value-added services development and/or prototype provision in view of a later return.
- The return would be initially more visibility for companies and, in a second stage, contracts to operate infrastructure and/or providing recurring (routine) services.



# Engagement framework

- Main guiding principles: flexibility, transparency, fairness and even-handedness, and clarity regarding expectations;
- Agreed and participatory mechanisms to develop the partnership and assess achievements (Global Compact for Space, as proposed, plus an additional high level forum)
- the main mechanism for industry to contribute would most likely be in-kind contributions to partnership activities, but “cash” contributions shall be also envisaged (Global Space Fund for development).
- Results from industry activities performed within the partnership freely available to interested countries.

# Conclusions

- Engaging industry in the Agenda 2030 and in the Global Space Partnership for SDGs is not an option, rather it is a duty and an unprecedented opportunity.
- The objectives set forth in the draft SPACE 2030 Agenda on the subject appears to be appropriate to create such an engagement framework;
- Need to move forward quickly to define the main features of the engagement framework to provide a solid background for the approval of the Space 2030 Agenda at UNISPACE+50