

Norwegian Space Centre in support of Space 2030

Discussion topic: "Space agencies in support of Space2030"

Background for the panellists

The aim of a "Space2030" agenda is to strengthen the global governance of outer space activities to enhance the contribution of space to the global agendas addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

Questions to be addressed by the space agencies:

- 1. How does your space agency envision its contribution to the "Space2030" agenda and the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term sustainable development?*
 - 2. How can we enhance global partnership and cooperation between space agencies*
 - 3. What role do you see the United Nations playing in facilitating cooperation?*
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3-minute statement by Christian Hauglie-Hanssen, Director Norwegian Space Centre

Madam Chair, distinguished audience! Thank you for the invitation to speak at the Unispace+50 event.

Norway is committing considerable resources into the international co-operation to achieve the 2030-agenda for sustainable development and has in this regard taken specific actions; Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg is the co-leader of the UN advocate group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Norway has made specific commitments to several of these goals, such as Quality Education, Health Care and Gender Equality. As a maritime country, Norway is furthermore dedicated to providing international leadership on preserving the world's oceans.

The Norwegian Space Centre recognizes that all countries – incl. Norway, need to speed up to fully meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In this regard it should be noted that many developing countries have limited resources to tackle all the new monitoring demands brought forward by the 2030-agenda and the Paris-agreement. Assistance in providing relevant data and support to these countries should therefore be considered an essential task.

We acknowledge that free satellite data can provide opportunities for end users and downstream service providers and will continue to work for access to free and open data which can support the 2030-agenda. The Norwegian Space Centre thus intends to continue to support and participate in ESA and EU initiatives, including; 1) ESAs scientific missions (such as the Biomass program), 2) EUs Copernicus-programme as well as 3) National initiatives which support monitoring of the oceans and rain forests.

Through Norway's engagement in the REDD+ program (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest degradation in Developing countries)- we have the ambition to exploit the powerful contribution of satellites for mapping of tropical de-forestation. Furthermore, as an arctic and sea faring nation, we acknowledge the importance of satellites as essential tools in numerous areas, such as fishery, shipping, telecommunication, navigation, weather forecasting and rescue operations. Based on a public-private partnership our first MicroSAR satellite is under development and two communications satellites in high-elliptical polar orbits are planned. These systems will help fill the gap of Earth Observation-data needed to protect the fragile Arctic areas as well as provide broadband communications for the first time in the high North. The Norwegian Space Centre is committed to continue exploring how satellites and satellite- based tools can support and strengthen Norway's involvement in the 2030-agenda.

We believe that the UN, by provision of specific requirements for data needed to support the Paris-agreement, can assist the national and international space agencies in our endeavor to develop future space systems which support the 2030-agenda.

Furthermore, we believe that the 2030-goals only can be achieved by global cooperation and partnerships. In this frame work, the joint effort of the international space communities is of the essence. We appreciate hereunder the importance of international organizations and networks, such as the CEOS (Committee on Earth Observing satellites) and GEO (Group on Earth Observations), and their dedication to serve the goals and targets under the 2030-agenda, the Paris-agreement and the Sendai-framework.

Thank you!