

UNISPACE+50 Heads of Space Agencies Panel

Statement of the Swiss Space Office SSO

Madam Chair

Dear colleagues

It is a distinct pleasure to join today's panel! The space sector is going through a phase of rapid evolution, if not to say revolution, opening up new opportunities to address long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

The quantity and timeliness of data from Earth Observation systems allow an almost real-time look at our planet. Satellite operators are connecting more and more remote communities to the internet, which is becoming truly ubiquitous. The final element of this triad of space tools is precision navigation, which is helping us to increase efficiencies in logistics, agriculture, air-travel, just to name a few. We support the definition of a "Space 2030" agenda, which encourages the leveraging of these space infrastructures in support of sustainable development!

What is the approach of the Swiss Space Office?
Switzerland has developed niches of excellence and high competence. Through our government's strong emphasis on fostering "bottom-up" or grassroots

initiatives: the inception of those niches have occurred as a result of strong personal investment within our scientific community and the private sector. We encourage those initiatives with targeted public investment at various levels, but in particular through our membership in the European Space Agency.

Switzerland actively supports amongst others ESA's Climate Change Initiative and within the COPUOS framework the use of space technologies in support of global health.

Furthermore, we believe that the opportunity should be seized, through the Space 2030 Agenda, to reinforce the safety and the transparency of space activities, including the exchange of information on space object and events, as means to increase trust between states and make space activities safe and sustainable in the long term.

Ladies and Gentlemen

To an individual space agency, or office in our case, the challenges ahead may seem manifold, but by coherently fostering complementary fields of cooperation, we may avoid duplication and be stronger in our joint action. Thank you!