

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)
Geneva, 10-12 June 2020**

**Discussion on “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and
the benefits of international research collaboration in this context”**

Statement submitted by

Ms. Simonetta di Pippo
Director
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

23rd session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context

REMARKS

Distinguished participants, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation to the organizers of this session for convening this meeting and for the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience.

Many domains of our everyday life, industries and opportunities for a better world have been hit hard by the current situation. It is at this moment when the crucial role of science, technology and innovation is demonstrated more than ever. And it is our joint challenge to put STI at the center of informed policymaking for a sustainable future.

What is the benefit that space technologies represent in all this? To put it bluntly - it is beyond measure. Identifying affected areas, disease modeling, tele-health and satellite communication, contact tracing - satellites contribute significantly in this unprecedented situation.

But the utility of space goes much further. Space provides critical tools not only for managing health emergencies, but also for achieving a just, peaceful and sustainable planet. The report on the “Role of space technologies for sustainable development” offers a great glimpse on the particular use of satellites in many areas relevant to SDGs. And I would really like to commend the great cross-collaboration in putting this document together.

Yet, underlining the great use of space on a paper is only part of the job. Stepping up our joint efforts and utilizing all available and developing new tools in the process of this decade of action must go indeed hand in hand with communication and outreach.

Space technology, data, applications and services, as useful as they are during this pandemic, will also be critical for the recovery phase as the initial step in this decisive 10-year period. And their use will be vital especially for developing countries.

Precision agriculture and increasing crop yield, water and waste management, financial services, online business and trade – this is but a shortlist of great benefits of space.

It is, therefore, in the best interest of all stakeholders, space and non-space alike, to ensure that satellites can be

utilized to their maximum potential globally. Seeking solutions for this “space divide” accentuates the need for multilateral approach.

So what exactly must be done? I would like to highlight three words – partnerships, networking, cooperation.

UNOOSA has exemplified this approach exceptionally well in the past few decades. Thanks to the great support of our partners, we have been able to make a real difference in the world.

Access to Space for All initiative is certainly one of the highlights. Micro- and hypergravity experiments, access to orbit and space stations for educational and research purposes, or satellite launch and deployment – these are the opportunities we currently offer to UN Member States.

The KiboCUBE programme included in the initiative is a role model for successful capacity building. This partnership of UNOOSA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency enables teams from developing nations to develop and launch their own CubeSats.

Thanks to our joint effort, Kenya and Guatemala became spacefaring nations in 2018 and 2020 respectively. The

Kenyan satellite was also the first-ever launched and deployed under the UN auspices.

Access to Space for All represents a unique and transformative tool for executing the global agendas and through such effort, we can address multiple Sustainable Development Goals at the same time.

I am very proud of the work that has been done, and grateful that the awareness about the role of space exploration not only in unlocking the mysteries of the universe, but about the usefulness of satellites for life on Earth, is growing.

Let us, however, not rest on our laurels - we have a long way to go before the benefits of space are universally available. And before those days come, I would like to assure our Member States, UN entities as well as all the other stakeholders, that UNOOSA will do everything possible to make it happen.

Thank you.