

**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

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Speech

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United Nations Commission on Science and
Technology for Development (CSTD)
Twenty-third annual session

High-level Roundtable on “Harnessing frontier and
space technologies for accelerating progress towards
the SDGs”

Virtual meeting on June 11th, 2020, 14:45 – 15:30

Redezeit ca. **3-5 Minuten**
Annahme 110 Wörter / Minute

**Madam Director , Division on Technology &
Logistics of UNCTAD, dear Ms. Shamika N.
Sirimanne,**

Madam Director UNOOSA, dear Ms. Di Pippo,

**H.E. Mr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher
Education and Scientific Research (Egypt),**

**H.E. Mr. Douglas Letsholathebe, Minister of
Tertiary Education Research Science and
Technology (Botswana),**

Dear Ministers,

Dear Heads of Agencies,

Dear Delegates,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please let me express our gratitude to the organizers and the CSTD Secretariat of UNCTAD for the opportunity to have this virtual meeting today and to allow us to provide the views of the German Aerospace Center, as one of the world's largest space research organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The German Aerospace Center, known by its German acronym DLR, is the national aeronautics and space research center of the Federal Republic of Germany.

DLR is in these fields, the largest research center in Europe in size and scope.

We are also involved in the fields of energy, transport, security and digitalization, in a leading position in Europe as well.

In addition to that, DLR is responsible for the planning and implementation of Germany's space activities on behalf of the federal government.

DLR is also one of Germany's largest project management agencies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Contributing to tackle global challenges is one key strategic goal of the DLR and of our new DLR 2030 Strategy. This means in particular strengthening our efforts to support the 2030 UN agenda for sustainable development.

For example, we initiated the “SDGs@DLR initiative”, which combines our extensive research and development activities with the knowledge and technology demands of the 2030 Agenda with its SDGs and the key actors to reach desired impacts and change. As part of this initiative we have mapped more than 700

activities of DLR research supporting all 17 SDGs, with most contributions focusing on

- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy),**
- **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure),**
- **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and**
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action).**

Dear ladies and gentlemen, please let me highlight two examples.

Firstly, on space research and technology for climate:

DLR Space research is advancing systematic observation, improving our knowledge and evidence on climate system and climate change impacts in order to effectively mitigate and adapt to minimize any adverse effects.

DLR intensively performs research on integrated greenhouse gas measurements together with international partners in order to support the global stocktake and transparency framework under the Paris agreement.

Secondly, I would like to highlight the “DLR Humanitarian Technology Initiative”.

DLR Space Research launched this initiative in 2019 to increase its technological support for Humanitarian actors. The initiative provides the platform to intensify the dialogue between Humanitarian Relief Organisations like the World Food Programme or the Red Cross (to name a few) and DLR researchers and engineers, to identify humanitarian needs in order to develop appropriate demonstrational projects and to kick-start concrete technological activities.

In the current global humanitarian crisis linked to the Covid-19 Pandemic, DLR supports also the World Bank in predicting contagion risk hotspots with geospatial analytics using the DLR World

Settlement Footprint evolution. For instance, DLR just provided scientific proof of the “Corona effect” on positive changes in air quality through a combined analysis of satellite measurements, in-situ data and computer modelling.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We can only reach the desired and needed impacts by working together on the whole chain from research to implementation.

Therefore, we partner with key actors in development cooperation like the German Corporation for International Cooperation, better known under the acronym GIZ, and the UN

organizations like the UNDP where we bring our expertise to support the development community.

We work closely with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs headed by Ms. Di Pippo, the UN-COPUOS and the current development of the Space2030 Agenda, Space4SDGs and support its UN-SPIDER programme, located in Bonn, since more than a decade.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me close my statement by stressing that an effective, inclusive and integrated cooperation

between Space and development actors should be improved. This would allow us to jointly achieve the required impacts and transformations for sustainable development.

Thank you very much