

Space for the Great Reset

Boosting sustainable economic growth for a resilient COVID-19 recovery

United Nations Science, Technology and Innovation Forum Side Event

Wednesday 5 May 12:30 EST/18:30 CEST

Science, technology and innovation are driving forces behind services and products that have become indispensable in our daily life. The COVID-19 pandemic not only confirms but reinforces this trend.

Space technologies such as Earth Observation, Global Navigation Satellite Systems and satellite communications have played a key role in addressing the pandemic. Tele-health, tele-medicine, remote working arrangements and contact tracing were strongly supported, if not completely reliant on satellite technologies.

With the impact on the global economy, this crisis represents an opportunity to re-think our future, identify and act on those priorities that will help us bringing forward sustainability, equality and innovation, as proposed by the Great Reset Initiative of the World Economic Forum. As the world builds back better, maximizing both the direct and indirect contribution that a strong space sector can make to the Sustainable Development Goals goes to the heart of the Space for the Great Reset event.

Technology, innovation and science must be leveraged to achieve new discoveries and frontiers that benefit humankind. In these endeavours, outer space represents an incredible asset.

The space industry is worth more than \$400 billion, and several analysts expect further growth, seeing space becoming a trillion-dollar industry by 2050. With its so many positive spill overs, the global space sector is boosting economic growth and accelerating sustainable development. Space activities drive innovation, create new markets and industrial capabilities, and provide job opportunities. Space critically helped Member States in addressing the COVID-19 challenge. It is a crucial element to support a sustainable and resilient COVID-19 recovery, and effective pathways of inclusive action towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Building on 2019 World Space Forum recommendations there is a need to make the maximum use of space technologies and applications for sustainable development and to include latest progress in the Space domain. As such a great reset will only be possible if new pathways and solutions and an out-of-the-box approach are applied. Among others, artificial intelligence, blockchain or cloud computing solutions as innovative ways and means to facilitate an action-based approach. Space technology is crucial in supporting all these elements and it is necessary to put together and use all instruments available.

In this context, UNOOSA will examine how the global space sector boosts economic growth to support the COVID-19 recovery. The event will include a panel of high-level experts invited to share their insights and success stories. The event will last 90 minutes. After opening remarks and a brief introduction by all speakers, the experts will engage in a moderated dynamic discussion.