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International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a 'Space2030' agenda (1)

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SPACE AS DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Abstract

Working hard to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among countries is an increasing global concern. The United Nations member states who have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and the related 17 SDGs, have taken concerted efforts to address current global challenges. While the Government of Saudi Arabia is experiencing a comprehensive transformation through Saudi Vision2030, the country's unique ambition vision to reduce dependency on oil, it has realized the intersecting nature between its national vision and the 17 SDGs. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued a royal decree in which assigns the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) the task of overseeing and coordinating with relevant entities on the SDGs dossier. The MEP has built a great synergy between entities in Saudi Arabia and the achievement of the 17 SDGs. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the Saudi government's efforts and progresses towards the achievement of SDGs in Saudi Arabia. This paper will examine all space policies and programs has been adopted by the Saudi government recently with a special focus on the role of space as a driver for a better life. Saudi Arabia has recognized the important role of Earth Observation (EO) and geolocation (GNSS) in supporting the achievement of the development goals. This paper will present current and existing space e-governance programs, initiatives, and policies especially after the novel coronavirus. Also, it will highlight the efforts have been done to boost Saudi specialized competencies and develop technological and scientific capabilities to serve the space sector that has direct relevance to the SDGs and human development. I will collect a qualitative data on the progress made in Saudi Arabia towards the achievement of SDGs across three areas: Social, environmental, and economical. This paper will analyze a large data collected from different literature reviews. Also, I will be depending in recent reports published by the Saudi government or submitted to the United Nations to gain an in-depth understanding of this paper topic. This paper definitively has answered the question regarding what steps have the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia taken to localize the 17 SDGs at national level. In addition, it shows that the potentials of space in supporting the SDGs is much wider.