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UNOSSC-ESA GDA partnership

Accelerating Impact

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→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

UNOSSC's partnership with ESA GDA



- Respond to developing countries' expressed needs for data, technology, resilience and implementation support, including through ABAS for SIDS, the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs.
- Connect ESA's Earth observation expertise with national priorities on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, urban planning, land systems, infrastructure and SDG implementation.
- Support governments in turning EO, geospatial analytics and data capabilities into decision-ready tools for policy, planning and public investment.
- Use UNOSSC's brokerage role to translate ESA capabilities into South-South and triangular cooperation pathways.
- Position EO as a practical enabler for implementing intergovernmental mandates and nationally owned development priorities.

Key elements of the EOIs

- Clear thematic relevance to national priorities, SDG implementation, climate resilience, urban planning, land systems and disaster-risk reduction.
- Strong institutional ownership by national governments or mandated agencies, ensuring that EO support responds to real policy and operational needs.
- Applicability across multiple countries, allowing individual requests to become shared South-South cooperation opportunities.
- Potential for clustering, peer learning and replication, rather than treating each EOI as a stand-alone project.
- Alignment with South-South and triangular cooperation policy frameworks

Cluster example: Urban growth, land systems and infrastructure



- Türkiye and Colombia showed strong demand around urban growth, land-use change, infrastructure planning and resilience.
- The cluster is strong because EO can directly support spatial planning, territorial development, risk-sensitive infrastructure and public investment decisions.
- Success factors include clear institutional demand, policy relevance, technical feasibility, cross-country comparability and potential for replication. It can enable shared methodologies for urban-growth mapping, land-system analysis, urban resilience and infrastructure-risk assessment.
- The cluster can generate reusable good practices, policy lessons, peer-learning exchanges and scalable pilots for other Global South countries.

Future UNOSSC-ESA engagements



- Expand capacity development, including introductory EO learning modules for policymakers and deeper thematic modules in future phases.
- Share ESA/GDA good practices, case studies, datasets and knowledge products through South-South Galaxy and the Global Alliance.
- Co-develop new innovative EO pilots responding to concrete demands from Global South Member States.
- Use the Global Alliance as the main platform for demand posting, matchmaking, cooperation brokerage and visibility of ESA-related EO solutions.
- Engage other UN agencies through the UN Inter-Agency mechanism, IFIs and knowledge partners to support scale, financing, policy uptake and multi-country implementation.