



EARSC Statement

EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies ([EARSC](https://www.earsc.org)) is a trade association based in Brussels, representing the European downstream services sector. EARSC counts more than 135 members across 25 countries of Europe.

EARSC welcomes the European Commission's consultation on the EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to report on the work undertaken by the EU to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

[2030 Agenda](#) is a data and evidence-based agenda, containing 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their 169 associated targets supported by 232 indicators. The SDGs are being launched with an emphasis on collecting data that will be extensive and specific enough to serve these needs. They are designed to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

Earth observation (EO) satellites can observe what happens on Earth from space; this includes land, sea, water, atmosphere, and human activities. EO is a powerful tool to support the reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and indicators and the provision of relevant information to effectively monitor progress towards the SDG targets, and the degree of compliance with the International Agreements. It helps with the provision of critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, or population demographics. This actionable information helps on the SDG implementation role, monitoring, reporting, and the facilitation and shaping of reporting methods, policy and tools. These insights can inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues.

Effective monitoring of the SDGs and reporting of the progress towards the SDGs targets require the use of multiple types of data such as satellite-derived data from public and private missions which together with modern data processing and analytics, offer new opportunities to track sustainable development. These many new features of EO capabilities will make them an indispensable source of data for a number of Sustainable Development indicators, and a supporting source of data for many others: objectivity, repeatability, global coverage, data continuity, affordable, thematic detail.

EO can be used to monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda, the area "[EO Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)" is populated with EO services and products contributing to different targets allowing to enrich the EO ecosystem presenting the contribution of the private sector to the SDGs. It enhances the understanding of the relationship between the SDGs and the EO services industry and increases the awareness of the challenges towards enhancing the contribution of the oil and gas sector to the achievement of the SDGs. Among the extensive list of services, the EO4SDGs include:

- (SDG1) characterizing droughts and impact on poverty
- (SDG2) crop monitoring, classification and mapping agricultural land while assessing compliance with land use regulations
- (SDG3) detection of health risk areas providing early warnings of vector-borne diseases and natural disasters
- (SDG6) water quality and user efficiency, change in the extent and dynamics mapping and monitoring of water-related ecosystems
- (SDG7) assess rooftop solar energy potential and solar PV site selection, mapping and monitoring
- (SDG8) monitoring, reporting and verification for commodities and managing ethical supply chains
- (SDG9) urban dynamics and informal settlements, mapping infrastructures and displacements monitoring
- (SDG11) population density, modelling and forecasting, spatial impacts of forces displacement for evidence-based decision making, mapping and monitoring urban settlements and housing

- (SDG12) environmental monitoring on production sites
- (SDG13) monitoring climate change for disaster response, industrial methane monitoring, climate change impact analysis
- (SDG14) monitoring aquatic plastic litter and maritime pollution, sargassum detection for operational and seasonal planning
- (SDG15) mapping and monitoring forests, by identifying degradation, rehabilitation, and recovery
- (SDG16) increasing peace by transparency, post conflict assessments and democratised access to disaster intelligence
- (CrossSDGs) access point to geospatial data, multi-cloud/hybrid cloud processing platform, integrated AI capabilities, professional marketplace for self -Service provision, API for platform automation and interoperability.

Satellite-derived data is a critical source for monitoring and driving progress against the SDGs. By observing the Earth from space, EO capabilities can contribute to the protection of forests and oceans, mitigate disasters, ensure a stable food supply, and even protect people's health from air pollutants. Consequently, EARSC believes that the EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should specify that satellite-derived data and added-value services are operational solutions to support the monitoring and reporting of various indicators and targets, and contribute to taking appropriate measures to achieve the SDGs.

EARSC remains at your disposal to work together on this objective.