

PRESS RELEASE

Space for Our Planet *Space Solutions for a Sustainable World*

Paris, 27 September 2021

As part of “Fête de la Science” 2021, a new multimedia exhibition, *Space for our Planet*, will be inaugurated Friday 1 October 2021 at Paris’s Jardin de l’Observatoire - PSL. The exhibition will be inaugurated 27 September 2021 in front of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. The exhibition aims to introduce people to the solutions that Space exploration can provide for ecological transition and a sustainable future.

25 people from around the world - from fishers to climate experts, astronauts to students, oceanographers to doctors - have been interviewed to examine how space technologies play their part in the attainment of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were devised to motivate countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They acknowledge our need to create strategies for economic growth that put an end to poverty while responding to a whole range of social needs, especially education, health, social protection and employment, while fighting climate change and protecting the environment.

Space for our Planet explains how Earth observation by satellites provides scientists with essential data about glacial melting, the rise in sea levels, and meteorological events to help them analyse the impact of climate change and prepare to counter it. Communication and geolocalisation satellites connect us to the world’s remotest regions, improving access to health and education and reducing travel requirements.

The exhibition also looks at how astronomy can inspire younger generations and help to reduce inequality, how life on board the International Space Station is enabling us to experiment more sustainable approaches to production and consumption, and how space exploration is offering us different perspectives on our own planet.

The exhibition is produced by TIMKAT under the patronage of UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, with the support of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS), the European Space Agency - ESA, the french space agency - CNES, of NEREUS, the Network of European regions using space technology - and of the NGO G.I.V.E, Global Initiative & Vision for Education.

About the curators of the exhibition: Benoit Delplanque, TIMKAT et Fiorella Coliolo, astrophysicist

The point of view of the exhibition's Partners

Simonetta di Pippo; Director, UNOOSA « The ever-growing space sector, encompassing more new actors, emerging actors, and contested fields, all impact the sustainability of the space sector itself. The population of debris keeps growing and with it the risk of in-orbit collisions. We must ensure future generations benefit from space as we do today... Every year, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) – a committee facilitated by UNOOSA – gathers to review and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as to consider legal issues arising from the exploration of outer space».

Josef Aschbacher, Director General, ESA « All our space assets are deployed in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thanks to our satellites, we provide crucial indicators and information about targets and the achievement of goals. For those goals related to poverty, food security or water quality, for example, we use Earth observation satellites combined with telecommunications and navigation services to monitor agriculture, evaluate crop yields and ensure that people have access to food».

Matthias Petschke, Director for Space, European Commission, DG-DEFIS «The European Commission remains committed to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and has an ambitious political programme to deliver on sustainability in the EU and beyond. The SDGs will continue to provide the umbrella for all EU policies and for investing EU funds ».

Philippe Baptiste, Chairman and CEO, CNES « The big question facing us is how to promote sustainable development in our daily activities in a concrete way. And how, at CNES, we can improve our carbon footprint, reduce our energy consumption or use greener fuels, as exemplified by our Kourou base in French Guiana, which will lead the energy transition of the whole region ».

Roya Ayazi, Secretary General, Nereus « Sustainable Development Goals are closely linked to region-based skills and challenges that regional decision makers, administrations and citizens have to deal with on a daily basis, such as sustainable food production, clean water, better management of natural disasters and economic growth ».

Zainab Azim, Founder of G.I.V.E. « To improve access to quality education important for creating progress in the Space sector, but Space can also be used to benefit education, simultaneously improving our own planet. If we are to achieve all the other SDGs, we must invest in young people by investing in our education systems and space-based technologies to provide that education ».

Content of the exhibition – A glimpse on some of the 25 testimonials

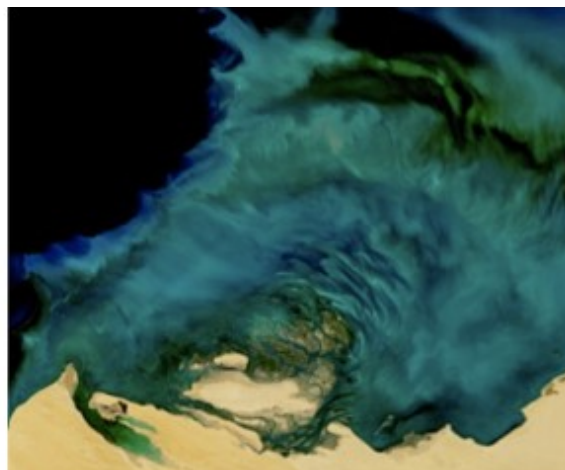
« In Timor-Leste, we use Earth observation data to help small coffee growers », Stefania Dina, Senior Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Coffee is grown by about 37% of the population in Timor-Leste, in the shade of trees in mountainous areas that are very difficult to access. We are working with ESA, the European Space Agency, using Earth observation data to monitor coffee plantations, improve quality and productivity, and increase the revenues of coffee growers to help combat poverty ».



« Using satellites, I study the colour of oceans to protect marine life », Marina Lévy, Oceanographer Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Paris, France

Phytoplankton are important for the climate and for ocean life. They are fascinating microscopic organisms, invisible to the naked eye, but visible from Space. A reduction in the quantities of phytoplankton would lead to a reduction in the ocean's resources and its capacity to capture carbon dioxide, one of the causes of the greenhouse effect.



« Parents must encourage their daughters to become interested in the phenomena of the universe and help us shed light on their mysteries », Marie Korsaga, Astrophysicist, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

When I arrived at university and signed up for maths and physics, I had to contend with people saying things like “it’ll be much too hard for you, you’ll struggle to make it and you’ll never make a career out of it”. They also said I’d be single all my life because no man would ever want to marry a woman working in the sciences. Luckily, I had parents who understood what I wanted and supported my career choice.



“We are going to be able to follow the behaviour of glaciers in real time », Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glaciologist, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

For glaciologists working in polar regions, data transmission is a real problem. There are no telephone networks, or wifi and electricity. Thanks to Astrocass, a constellation of satellites launched in partnership with the ESA, we receive essential scientific information that reveals glacial melting on a daily basis.



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gives us the means to clear minefields more efficiently », Robert Pearson, Director Chelton, London, United Kingdom

There are currently still 58 landmine affected countries around the globe and many tens of millions of landmines and improvised explosive devices that need to be cleared. MIDAS, which is part of the European Space Agency Integrated Applications Program, stands for Mine and IED Detection Augmented by Satellite. MIDAS came from the idea that it might

be possible to clear minefields more efficiently and with a greater level of assurance by combining dual sensor technology with precision navigation by satellite and Earth observation techniques.



The 25 testimonials are accompanied by photo stories, portraits, images from space, and audio recordings accessible via QR codes.

A multimedia platform is connected to *Space for our Planet*. The testimonials are accessible on the "Space for Our Planet / L'Espace pour notre Planète" exhibition podcast, and distributed by Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Deezer, Stitcher. For further information visit: www.space4ourplanet.org

Space for our Planet has been produced in French, English, Dutch and German.

Space for our Planet exhibition on stage:

27 September-20 November 2021, Brussels

Esplanade of the European Parliament, 27 september to 15 october

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), 18 october to 20 november

1^{er} October-15 November 2021, Paris

Jardin de l'Observatoire, Paris - PSL, 98 boulevard Arago, Paris 14th

The exhibition is part of the official "Fête de la Science" programme

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About

UNOOSA : www.unoosa.org

ESA : www.esa.int, et <https://sdg.esa.int/>

European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/defence-industry-space/eu-space-policy_en

CNES : www.cnes.fr

NEREUS : www.nereus-regions.eu

G.I.V.E. : <https://www.give.education>

Observatoire de Paris - PSL : www.observatoiredeparis.psl.eu

TIMKAT : www.timkat.fr

About the Curators of the exhibition

Benoit Delplanque has created international-scale multimedia exhibitions like *Journeys To School*, *UNESCO Green Citizens*, *Pathfinders for Change* or *Education Transforms Lives* for UNESCO. He created TIMKAT in 2007, a production unit specialising in the design and creation of multimedia stories and exhibitions relating to society.

Fiorella Coliolo is an astrophysicist by training with strong experience in communication and education. Fiorella has worked on many international exhibitions and events involving different actors: ESA, national space agencies, industries, European scientific institutions and museums. She is currently involved in collaborations with Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the Technological Aerospace Cluster (DTA) in Apulia Region.

Benoit and Fiorella devised the *Space Girls Space Women* project in 2013, an exhibition presenting portraits of girls and women fascinated by space. It was hosted in more than 22 European cities