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“Smart Earth Observation for a Sustainable Future”
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Special Session S5: Space for Sustainability: Space It Up and the evolution of Earth Observation systems

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Today Earth Observation (EO) represents one of the most powerful and promising tools to tackle the global challenges of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Thanks to increasingly sophisticated satellites and advanced data processing systems, it is now possible to monitor the health of our planet in real time: from climate change to deforestation, from air quality to water resources, from precision agriculture to the management of natural disasters.

This session explores how EO services and technologies are rapidly evolving and are now being integrated into operational and decision-making strategies to support the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Through concrete examples and case studies, the applications of EO will be illustrated in areas such as environmental monitoring, sustainable urban planning, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation.

The discussion will also delve into the crucial role of collaboration between space agencies, public institutions, technology companies, and innovative startups, highlighting how open-access satellite data and digital infrastructures are democratizing access to geospatial information. Special attention will be given to the opportunities offered by European programs, such as Copernicus, and to the industrial and employment development prospects linked to the EO sector.