

THE SRI IV WORLD CONGRESS – QUALITY OF LIFE

The quality of life and the status of the 17 SDGs



Space Renaissance International (SRI) – founded in 2010

In preparing for the SRI IV World Congress on “Quality of Life, on Earth and Beyond” June 2026, we continue to assess civilization’s status. Is it progressing, regressing, or stalled? A key metric to be considered the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Overall, progress is poor: Goals 16 (Peace and Justice), 13 (Climate Action), and 2 (Zero Hunger) are regressing; twelve Goals are stalled/insufficient; only Goals 7 (Affordable Energy) and 3 (Good Health) show some slight gains. Energy—the pivotal SDG driving global progress or regression—has become very controversial, given growing unsustainable demands from AI supercomputers, data centers, and the electronic society. Competition for terrestrial minerals fuels territorial wars. Although there is no shortage on energy or “rare-earth” elements, extraction and production are unsustainable. Critical resources are concentrated in few geographical areas, amid the demand of 8.5 billion people. Within today’s crumbling international law, awareness of insufficiencies grows: the global AI’s era cannot rely solely on terrestrial sources—extraction at expected scales would devastate the biome, turning our planet Trantor-like^[1], devoid of natural life. Key industrial players therefore recognize moving data centers to space, following the only sustainable path.

The Space 18th SDG, Space for All, on Earth and Beyond



<https://space18thsdg.space/>



Join the #space18sdg

We hate being right, but we are. In 2023, we revived David Dunlop’s and NSS’s 2017 flag: an 18th SDG for Civilian Space Development^[2], this goal being the only way to sustain the 17 UN SDGs and drive positive progress worldwide. Only industrial development beyond Earth’s bounds can rapidly reverse the global crisis, foster peace, restore youth hope, and support the growth of emerging countries—diverting and preventing the inevitable crash into stringent terrestrial limits. Space Renaissance International and 116 worldwide organizations^[3] (NGOs, education, industry, civil society) propose adding the 18th SDG to the UN 2030 Agenda. The Space development paradigm is now central to planetary sustainability and deserves to take its position among the other 17 SDGs. We urge all COPUOS Member States to consider the establishment of an **18th SDG Working Group** and UN General Assembly Recommendations. To include at minimum: space debris removal and reusing techniques and regulatory frameworks, international space industrialization thematics, lunar settlement programs, dual use asset identities, the nuclear monitor, non-proliferation and space stability and security going forwards, public education and participation, a platform for health, simulated gravity research and development, radiation protection, and green environments in space habitats. Please join the development of this unique proposal, SRI outline and a side event for the 18thSDG is currently planned for the 2026 sessions. Contact: info@spacerenaissance.org.

Design for space habitats and vehicles: redundancy, flamboyance, joy and creativity

Over these past decades, hundreds of astronauts have lived aboard orbital stations such as the ISS—some for a full year—generating essential information on the effect of microgravity and background radiation on the human organism. Long term space residence causes several profound physiological changes. Astronaut Scott Kelly’s 2015–2016 ISS mission, highlighted harsh impacts, underscoring the need to mitigate the condition of civilian life in space^[4]. Prolonged isolation may affect motivation and emotion, making psychological resilience as crucial as physical health. Future space settlers will avoid becoming nostalgically Earth-bound yet physically unfit to return. This demands life-glorifying systems, not just survival ones. Ergonomics and art, calming colors, soft lighting, comfortable seating, and views of the space environs will foster relaxation, interaction, and well-being. Integrated green environments must exceed food and oxygen production requirements: plants and flowers will boost mental health and morale. Life-supporting systems should be designed with a large redundancy. Water will serve not only biological needs but as a living element. Space living posits beauty, comfort, and nurturing spaces for emotional thriving far from planet Earth. Without such a sense of freedom, the risk becomes that of exiles over pioneers—as freedom of choice remains a human right and the cornerstone of dignity. Spinning habitats simulating Earth gravity will preserve health, strength, and freedom.

THE TRULY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Scott Kelly, NASA



Gerard K. O'Neill

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[Join the SRI Crew!](#)

The SRI IV World Congress, redefining the SRI Mission

2026 is a pivotal year for SRI, the global space movement, and the world at large. We will celebrate our IV World Congress^[6] (30 June–4 July), following previous sessions^[7] in 2011, 2016, and 2021. We will rethink our mission: promote civilization's expansion into space; connecting Aerospace and New Space companies, individuals, institutions, and agencies to accelerate technology for civilian space growth; fostering economic, cultural, and political ties; developing global education and outreach; integrating science, philosophy, and art. Our work presages an open Solar Civilization—in the geo-lunar space and beyond. Every word here matters deeply, as the world nears a political, philosophical, existential "black hole" or *singularity*. Philosophical and strategic thinking becomes more and more relevant, while the humanists of Planet Earth pay greater attention to indications and suggestions in order to overcome the crisis. We embrace our responsibilities, as we have declared from the establishment of SRI in 2008: Space Renaissance is a *philosophical association*. We build on the shoulders of giants like Plato, Bruno, Kant, Schelling, Tsiolkovsky, Ehricke, Kardashev, O'Neill, and modern space humanists^[8], our mentors that watch over and guide us. The SRI IV World Congress will discuss critical key issues over the next five years, looking ahead, and beyond the gravity well. We will describe the space settlers' rights, with earthly investors acting as facilitators and midwives to help mother Earth give birth to a solar civilization. Earned value from civilian space development becomes essential: without profit, enterprises die. Strong returns will multiply investments, building infrastructure and logistics in geo-lunar space and beyond. Nobody should be excluded from the space industrialization process, pioneers will assist newcomers. Abundant space based resources will eliminate the need for fierce competition—as helping rivals becomes more profitable than fighting them, within fast paced collaborative ventures. In space, friendship and interchange are highly productive means, and such values have been shown by 60+ years of continuous orbital development. Fair competition also has clear value: losers will benefit from winners' success and may succeed next time. Space ventures will surpass the ferocious terrestrial markets. Among topics: space ethics for peace, astropolitics, clarifying the Outer Space Treaty's ambiguities, ownership of space resources, rights of space workers/settlers/communities. The relevance of Gerard K. O'Neill's rotating habitats; prioritizing Human Intelligence (HI) over AI; the *eutopian* philosophy as reality's driver; comprehensive space weapons ban; simulated gravity; radiation protection; permanent space revolution with 100% inclusivity for new countries; legal frameworks for recovering and reusing space wreckage.

Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)

The issues facing ATLAC and any future international mechanism lie less in whether consultation is needed and more in how the platform is engineered so that it is both politically viable and operationally useful. From this perspective: amending the Registration Convention to include reporting outer space activities is a sensible and essential component of any new international mechanism; any further mechanism should be explicitly *ministerial and facilitative*, with no independent authority over States or private actors; Information sharing can be conceived as a *minimum consultation dataset*, with layered access and clear Intellectual Property safeguards, rather than a comprehensive reporting requirement; information platforms and repositories would then serve for *consultation and traceability*, not regulatory oversight.

Space Situational Awareness - An Essential Conservation of Orbit and Access

Owing to the continuous placement of mega-constellations within variable national outlooks, the upcoming expansion of a fully globalized space situational awareness and space traffic management platform, represents a critical sustainability factor of direct concern for the COPUOS legal and technical fora. Space Renaissance International proposes that coordination of SST and STM assets can be quickly assured within the framework of an 18th Sustainable Development Goal "Space for All, on Earth and Beyond". The original 18th SDG dimension can accommodate a range of informational assets enabling design-based configurations, national interchange, comprehensive space diplomacy and public awareness.

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¹ Asimov, Isaac, "The Foundation Trilogy"

² <https://spacerenaissance.space/the-18th-sustainable-development-goal/>

³ <https://spacerenaissance.space/the-space18sdg-proposer-organizations/>

⁷ SRI rooted to the 1500 Renaissance. Since 2021, the SRI Academy Space Philosophy Lab, headed by Dr. Marie-Luise Heuser, has integrated and expanded the research field she founded at the Technical University of Braunschweig: the philosophical history of space travel since antiquity, including the insights of philosophers such as Plato, Bruno, and Schelling, as well as Space Romanticism.

⁴ <https://www.amazon.de/-/en/Endurance-Year-Space-Lifetime-Discovery/dp/1784162655/>

⁵ <https://2026.spacerenaissance.space/index.php/call-for-papers-abstract-submission/>

⁶ <https://2026.spacerenaissance.space/>