

SRIC4 Panel Brief

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

Date and time

2 July 2026

16:00 UTC / 18:00 CEST / 12:00pm US East

Chair

Dr. Gülin Dede

Moderator

Robert Katz

Panel focus

This panel will address one of the central questions facing sustainable development in the space age: how outer space can be made visible within the global sustainability framework.

Space is no longer only a future frontier. It already functions as critical infrastructure for climate monitoring, disaster risk reduction, connectivity, navigation, education, environmental management and long-term planetary resilience, while also opening a horizon for new industrial development beyond Earth. The 18th SDG proposal frames space through a dual lens: as an enabler of sustainable development on Earth and as an environment requiring stewardship as human activity expands beyond Earth.

The discussion will focus on the Space 18th SDG as a way to bring these dimensions together under the theme “Space for All, on Earth and Beyond.” It will explore how space already serves societies on Earth, how it can support more inclusive development, and how humanity can approach activities beyond Earth responsibly.

The panel will bring together leading experts and practitioners to discuss how the Space 18th SDG can make space more visible within the global sustainability framework and advance the vision of “Space for All, on Earth and Beyond.”

Core framing

Space is already part of the operating system of modern society, but it is still not sufficiently visible within the broader UN system and the global sustainability framework. The Space 18th SDG gives this missing connection a clear frame: space as an enabler of sustainable development on Earth, and space as an environment requiring stewardship as human activity expands beyond Earth.

Panel structure

The panel will follow a structured sequence. The Chair will open with a focused framing intervention of approximately 5–6 minutes. Each following speaker is asked to prepare a focused intervention of approximately **5–6 minutes**, responding to the prompt assigned below. The aim is not for each speaker to cover the entire topic, but to build a coherent discussion across complementary perspectives.

Gülin Dede — Chair’s opening framing / Space 18th SDG Coalition perspective

Why does the Space 18th SDG matter now, and how can it make space visible within the global sustainability framework?

Frank White — Overview Effect and human consciousness

Suggested focus:

How can the Overview Effect help humanity understand Earth as one interconnected system, and why is this perspective important for a sustainability vision that includes outer space?

Robert Katz — Innovation networks and global collaboration

Suggested focus:

How can innovation networks help connect people, institutions, educators, entrepreneurs and civil society around the Space 18th SDG vision?

Gary Barnhard — Space partnerships, habitats and cislunar development

Suggested focus:

What kinds of partnerships are needed to make “Space for All, on Earth and Beyond” practical, and how can space partnerships support more inclusive development and opportunity, especially as human activity expands toward cislunar space, habitats and long-term space infrastructure?

Ammar Jaffri — SDGs, education and development communities

Suggested focus:

How can the Space 18th SDG speak to existing SDG communities, education networks, youth, developing countries and communities that may not yet see themselves as part of the space future?

Henk Rogers — Earth sustainability and long-term human futures beyond Earth

Suggested focus:

How can the transition toward a sustainable civilization on Earth be connected with the longer-term vision of responsible human activity beyond Earth, and what does “Space for All, on Earth and Beyond” mean from the perspective of planetary resilience, clean energy and future settlements?

Indicative flow

16:00-16:06 — Gülin Dede, Chair’s opening framing

16:06-16:12 — Frank White

16:12-16:18 — Robert Katz

16:18-16:24 — Gary Barnhard

16:24-16:30 — Ammar Jaffri

16:30-16:36 — Henk Rogers

16:36-16:53 — Moderated discussion

16:53-17:00 — Chair’s synthesis and closing

Moderated discussion

After the speaker interventions, the discussion will focus on three guiding questions:

1. What does “Space for All, on Earth and Beyond” mean from your perspective?

2. How can the Space 18th SDG make space more visible within the global sustainability framework?
3. What should the Space 18th SDG Coalition and SRI carry forward from this discussion after SRIC4?

Purpose of the panel

The purpose of this panel is to give the Space 18th SDG a clear and focused discussion space within SRIC4.

The panel should help clarify how the Space 18th SDG can provide a coherent frame for connecting space-enabled services on Earth, inclusive development, long-term resilience, and responsible human activity beyond Earth within the sustainability agenda.

The intended outcome is a focused, expert-led and Space Renaissance-aligned conversation that strengthens the Space 18th SDG as a visible framework for connecting space, sustainable development and the future of humanity.

Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution.