



THE PONTIFICAL
ACADEMY OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

WORKSHOP ON

SATELLITES FOR PEACE. AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME



23-25 June 2026
Casina Pio IV, Vatican City



Peace be with you all!

Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for God's flock.

I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you!

It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally.

First Blessing "Urbi Et Orbi" of His
Holiness Pope Leo XIV
Central Loggia of the Vatican Basilica
Thursday, 8 May 2025



Concept Note

Conference co-organized with:

- ▶ Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- ▶ Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT)
- ▶ Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▶ United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)

Overview

The global space industry—revenues valued at **\$630 billion in 2023** and projected to reach **\$1.8 trillion by 2035**—has rapidly expanded around the deployment of low-earth-orbit satellites. These systems now underpin essential civilian applications: scientific research, communications, navigation, and **earth observation**. Satellite imagery is indispensable for monitoring agriculture, climate, deforestation, water resources, urbanization, and poverty—capabilities central to food security, environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and effective aid delivery.

For fragile and conflict-affected areas, the role of satellites is even more crucial. Remote sensing provides accurate, timely information that ground personnel often cannot safely collect.

Satellites and the Global Architecture of Peace

High-resolution satellite imagery supports peace and humanitarian action by:

- ▶ Monitoring ceasefires and compliance with international humanitarian law
- ▶ Assessing damage to infrastructure, cultural, and religious sites
- ▶ Enabling early-warning systems and conflict forecasting
- ▶ Guiding crisis response teams across the UN system
- ▶ Supporting peacekeeping and post-conflict stabilization through precise assessments of housing, agriculture, utilities, and industry.

Both **UNDP** and **UNOSAT** view this conference as an opportunity to expand understanding of how satellite imagery strengthens peacebuilding and humanitarian action in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

A Timely Idea

The conference title echoes a 1979 *Washington Post* article inspired by Senator Adlai Stevenson, who envisioned satellites serving peace as well as human progress. Nearly fifty years later, this vision is no longer aspirational:

global sharing of satellite imagery has advanced dramatically in reach, resolution, and analytical value.

Yet **Very High Resolution (VHR)** imagery (<50 cm) remains dominated by military demand, limiting access for humanitarian actors who urgently require these data to document crises, support vulnerable populations, and counter misinformation.

A recent PRIO report notes a **record 65 armed conflicts in 35 countries in 2025**. Effective humanitarian action now depends on reliable, high-resolution observations that only satellites can provide. Realizing this potential requires stronger cooperation among governments, the private sector, and the scientific community.

An Opportunity for Cooperation

In an increasingly polarized world, satellite data sharing offers a rare avenue for constructive, cross-bloc collaboration. UNOSAT already demonstrates the power of trusted, neutral institutions to distribute reliable information when misinformation proliferates during crises.

Expanding access to VHR imagery for humanitarian use would significantly enhance global capacity to respond to disasters and conflicts.

Conference Objectives

This conference pursues two main goals:

1. **Assess the current state of satellite-based earth observation for humanitarian needs**, including collection, analysis, and dissemination.
2. **Explore ways to strengthen commitments**—from States, international organizations, and private providers—to supply and fund VHR imagery for peace and humanitarian purposes.

Proposed Programme (8 Sessions)

1. **VHR Imagery in Development and Peace Efforts: Needs & End-Users:** Mapping current and future needs for VHR imagery across peace, humanitarian, and development efforts through engagement with key end users.
2. **From Data to Knowledge:** How satellite data can be transformed into actionable insights for humanitarian response, resilience building, recovery planning, and peace operations.
3. **Conflict Forecasting and Operational Decision-Making:** Theory and Applications: The value of satellite imagery and geospatial analytics for conflict forecasting, operational decision-making, and validation of diverse data sources.



4. **Protecting Sites of Cultural Significance:** The use of satellite imagery to support the protection of religious buildings and culturally significant sites during armed conflict.
5. **Obstacles to VHR Access:** Addressing the main barriers to accessing VHR imagery and analysis for peace, development, and humanitarian actors.
6. **Science & Technology:** Advances in satellite technologies, AI, and small-satellite systems to improve access to and use of VHR imagery.
7. **Enhancing Civil-Military Cooperation on VHR Imagery:** Exploring opportunities and challenges in strengthening civil-military cooperation to support international peace and humanitarian efforts.
8. **Towards a “Satellites for Peace Alliance”:** Bringing together the UN, States, industry, scientists, foun-

dations, and peace experts to improve technical solutions, data-sharing, synergies, and sustainable funding mechanisms in support of fragile and conflict-affected communities.

Participants

The conference will convene experts in conflict analysis, crisis management, mediation, humanitarian assistance, science diplomacy, and space technology, alongside representatives from governments and the commercial space sector.

Reception

A welcome reception (with dinner buffet) will be held in the Vatican Gardens (Terrace of Casina Pio IV) **at 18:30 on 23 June.**

Programme

TUESDAY, 23TH OF JUNE, 18:30-20:30:

Opening conference reception on the terrace of Casina Pio IV

WEDNESDAY 24TH OF JUNE 2026

OPENING SESSION		
SATELLITES FOR PEACE. AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME		
Moderator: Cardinal Peter Turkson , Chancellor PASS		
9:00	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sr. Helen Alford, <i>President PASS</i> • Prof. Gregory Reichberg, <i>PASS, PRIO</i>
9:10	<i>Conference aim and scope</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maja-Stina Ekstedt, <i>KSAT</i>
9:30	<i>The UN’s need for VHR-satellite imagery in the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Corli Pretorius, <i>UNDP</i>
9:40	<i>From Imagery to Impact</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Mukul Bhola, <i>UNITAR/UNOSAT</i>
9:50	<i>Does the world need a Satellites for Peace Alliance?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Steve Killelea AM, <i>IEP</i>
10:00	A Satellites for Peace conference – initial thoughts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Minji Song, <i>UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs</i> • Dr. Inge Jonckheere, <i>European Space Agency</i> • Astronaut Jannicke Mikkelsen 	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	



SESSION 1: VHR IMAGERY IN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE EFFORTS: NEEDS & END-USERS		
Goal for session 1:		
Explore current and future needs for VHR imagery within peace, humanitarian and development efforts, through listening to, and in dialog with, core end users.		
Moderator: Mr. Nathaniel Raymond, Humanitarian Research Lab, Yale University		
11:00-11:45	<p>Questions to explore with end users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your organization’s mission? • Practical examples of how your organization makes use of satellite imagery • How would your organization benefit today from better access to VHR-imagery and analysis? • Examples of future efforts that would benefit from more stable access to VHR-imagery • What would be your desired objectives regarding use of VHR-imagery for peace, development, and humanitarian efforts? 	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anila Qehaja, United Nations Development Programme - Crisis Bureau • Mr. Sascha Weh, UNITAR • Mr. Sam Dubberly, Human Rights Watch (HRW) • Ms. Thao Ton-That Whelan, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) • Mr. Chris Newton, International Crisis Group (ICG) • Prof. Khalid Koser, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
11:45-12:45	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Core question for the discussion:</u></p> <p><i>Has the time for Satellites for Peace come, and if so, how can we work together for increased access to VHR-imagery and analysis?</i></p> <p><u>Notes:</u> Giacomo Bruni, Risha Das, Evie M. Hagen</p>	
12:45-13:45	Lunch at Casina Pio IV	

SESSION 2: FROM DATA TO KNOWLEDGE		
Goal for session 2:		
Explore how data can provide actionable insight for humanitarian response, recovery planning, resilience building, and peace operations, though listening to, and in dialog with, representatives from the space- and the tech-industry.		
Moderator:		
Dr. Inge Jonckheere , European Space Agency		
13:45-14:15	<p>Questions to explore with industry/tech-partners;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell us about your organization and how it contributes to the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus? 	<p>Industry/tech-panelists;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andrew Zolli, Planet • Mr. Martin Skedsmo, KSAT • Mr. Carlos Román, Vantor • Ms. Rhiannan Price, Common Space
14:15-15:00	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Core questions for the discussion:</u></p> <p><i>How can satellite imagery and geospatial analytics be translated into actionable insights for crisis response, recovery planning, resilience investments, and peacebuilding efforts?</i></p> <p><i>How can private companies support humanitarian and peace-related uses during geopolitical crises?</i></p> <p><u>Notes:</u> Alexandre Carayon, Risha Das, Chandler Williams</p>	



SESSION 3: CONFLICT FORECASTING AND OPERATIONAL DECISION-MAKING: THEORY AND APPLICATIONS		
Goal for session 3: Explore the value of satellite imagery and geospatial analytics for observing indicators of peace, operational decision-making, and validation of diverse data sources in conflict-affected areas.		
Part 3A: Theory Moderator: Dr. Andreas Tollefsen , University of Oslo/PRIO		
15:00-15:30	Satellite-derived data for advancing conflict research	Dr. Valerie Sticher , Center for Security Studies (CSS)
	Use of radar for monitoring infrastructure damage	Dr. Jamon Van Den Hoek , Oregon State University
	Conflict signals from thermal anomalies	Mr. Chandler Williams , Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
	Satellite-derived data for tracking indicators of peace	Mr. Thomas Morgan , Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
15:30-16:15	Plenary discussion Notes: Evie M. Hagen, Katharina Glaab	
16:15-16:30	Coffee break	
Part 3B: Applications Moderator: Dr. Trygve Sparr , Norwegian Defense Research Establishment		
16:30-16:40	Reflections on Operationalizing Conflict Analytics for Crisis Response and Recovery	Ms. Asmaa Marouf , UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)
	Use of satellite imagery for monitoring IHR violations	Mr. Nathaniel Raymond , Yale Humanitarian Research Lab
16:20-17:15	Plenary discussion Notes: Giacomo Bruni, Risha Das, Evie M. Hagen	

SESSION 4: PROTECTING SITES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE		
Goal for session 4: Explore the value of satellite imagery for protection of religious buildings and sites during armed conflict.		
Moderator: Archbishop Ettore Balestero , The Holy See (Geneva)		
17:15-7:45	The role religious leaders play in peace processes, and why it is important to protect religious sites and buildings.	Mr. Stein Villumstad , European Council of Religious Leaders
	Multi-scalar approaches for cultural heritage conservation: Advanced technologies for the preservation of cultural heritage, from sub-centimeter precision to global monitoring.	Mr. Yves Ubelmann , Founder and President of HeritageWatch.AI
	On how and why Heritage Watch.AI is engaged in the protection of religious sites and buildings	Mr. Andrew Hassanali , Planet



	Perspective from GovLab on the possibilities in technology for protection of religious sites and buildings in war-ridden countries.	Dr. Stefaan G. Verhulst , The GovLab (NYU)
	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p>Core questions for the discussion:</p> <p>Who would benefit from increased local and global protection of religious buildings and sites?</p> <p>Notes: Risha Das, Giacomo Bruni, Nina Soleng,</p>	
17:45-18:45	Reception at Casina Pio IV	
18:45-21:00	Dinner at Casina Pio IV	

THURSDAY 25TH OF JUNE 2026

SESSION 5: OBSTACLES TO VHR ACCESS		
<p>Goal for session 5</p> <p>Insights from UNOOSA, FAO, the Humanitarian Research Lab and the Carter Center on challenges related to accessing VHR-imagery and analysis for international peace, development, and humanitarian efforts.</p>		
Moderator: Professor Danielle Wood , Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)		
09:00-09:30	Mr. Lorant Czaran , United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)	
	Dr. Andreas Vollrath , Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO)	
	Director Corli Pretorius , UNDP	
	Director Nathaniel Raymond , Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL)	
	Mr. Artur Kluz , Kluz Ventures	
	Dr. Kashaf Ijaz , The Carter Center	
09:30-10:30	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p>Core questions for the discussion:</p> <p>What needs to change to increase access to VHR-data for peace, development, and humanitarian efforts?</p>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	

SESSION 6: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY		
<p>Goal for session 6:</p> <p>Explore the potential in science and technology for increased access to VHR-imagery for peace, development, and humanitarian actors. Professor BenYishay from AIDDATA, and Dr Kellner from the Taylor Geospatial Institute, will give their perspectives from the user side on benefits from VHR-imagery, as well as new technological advances based on AI. Data providers from BlackSky (private) will inform about potential in advances in satellite design, including small-satellite systems, that can help overcome current limitations in access to VHR-data.</p>		
Moderator: Ms Minji Song , UN DPPA		
11:00-11:30	Introduction to the topic	Prof. BenYishay , AIDDATA
	Benefits of VHR-imagery and new technologies at TGI	Dr. Elliot Kellner , Taylor Geospatial Institute (TGI)
	Leveraging AI-powered Earth Observation and satellite imagery to track critical assets with high-frequency, low-latency intelligence.	Mr. Jonathan Debilde , Blacksky
	Systems engineering approaches to adopting emerging space technology to support humanitarian efforts	Dr. Danielle Wood , MIT



11:30-12:30	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Core question for the discussion:</u></p> <p><i>What needs to change locally, nationally and internationally so that peace, development, and humanitarian actors can benefit from advances in science and technology?</i></p> <p><u>Notes:</u> Katharina Glaab, Evie M. Hagen, Risha Das</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch at Casina Pio IV

SESSION 7: ENHANCING CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION ON VHR-IMAGERY									
<p>Goal for session 7</p> <p><i>Create awareness of the possibilities, but also the challenges, of strengthening civil-military cooperation for international peace and humanitarian efforts.</i></p>									
<p>Moderator</p> <p>Ambassador Helmut Lagos Koller, Embassy of Chile in Norway</p>									
13:30-4:00	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Possibilities and challenges related to enhancing civil-military cooperation for international peace efforts.</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;">Director Erin Sikorsky, Center for Climate and Security</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Perspective on whether civil-military cooperation is the preferred path forward for increased access to VHR-imagery for peace and humanitarian efforts internationally, or if these capacities will need to be in the civil domain.</i></td> <td>Dr. Larry Lewis, Center for Naval Analyses</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Perspective from the Colombian Air Force on opportunities and challenges within civil-military cooperation.</i></td> <td>Lieutenant Colonel Sonia Ruth Ricon Urbina, Colombian Air Force</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Norway's effort to strengthening civil-military cooperation – under the “stability-promoting-measures”-umbrella, and it's potential for international peace- and humanitarian efforts.</i></td> <td>Dr. Trygve Sparr, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)</td> </tr> </table>	<i>Possibilities and challenges related to enhancing civil-military cooperation for international peace efforts.</i>	Director Erin Sikorsky, Center for Climate and Security	<i>Perspective on whether civil-military cooperation is the preferred path forward for increased access to VHR-imagery for peace and humanitarian efforts internationally, or if these capacities will need to be in the civil domain.</i>	Dr. Larry Lewis, Center for Naval Analyses	<i>Perspective from the Colombian Air Force on opportunities and challenges within civil-military cooperation.</i>	Lieutenant Colonel Sonia Ruth Ricon Urbina, Colombian Air Force	<i>Norway's effort to strengthening civil-military cooperation – under the “stability-promoting-measures”-umbrella, and it's potential for international peace- and humanitarian efforts.</i>	Dr. Trygve Sparr, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)
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14:00-15:00	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Core question for discussion:</u></p> <p><i>What forms of cooperation are needed to improve access to VHR-imagery for humanitarian, development and peace efforts?</i></p> <p><u>Notes:</u> Maja-Stina Ekstedt, Risha Das, Chandler Williams</p>								
15:00 -15:30	Coffee break								

SESSION 8: TOWARD A SATELLITES FOR PEACE ALLIANCE	
<p>Goal for session 8:</p> <p><i>Explore the value of bringing UN-agencies, States, industry, scientists, foundations and peace experts together, to support communities in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Does the world need a Satellites for Peace Alliance? This final session will also explore what will be needed to improve technical solutions, data-sharing, synergies between users, and more sustainable funding mechanisms.</i></p>	
<p>Moderator: Professor Henrik Syse, PRIO</p>	
15:30-15:40	<p>Director Steve Killelea</p> <p><i>Orientation regarding structure and plans for a Satellites for Peace Alliance</i></p>



	Does the world need a Satellites for Peace-alliance, and if so; which role(s) do you see that UN/UNDP will play in such an alliance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Liuta, UNDP Ukraine • Director Corli Pretorius, UNDP • Dr. Joerg Szarzynski, UNOOSA • Dr. Andreas Vollrath, FAO
	In our challenging geopolitical time, could a Satellites for Peace Alliance be a way to create needed awareness of the humanitarian consequences of conflicts and wars, and enable more efficient pathways towards peace? What roles do you see States play in such an alliance?	Several State representatives
	What is needed for the space industry to be able to prioritize engagement in a Satellites for Peace Alliance, both short- and long-term? Do you foresee that defense and intelligence agencies will always take precedence in accessing optical VHR-imagery, or will awareness of the value and need for such data within the peace, development, and humanitarian nexus, create a market that can efficiently deliver data and analysis for these actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michaël Chemouny, Airbus Defence and Space • Mr. Alexandre Carayon, Astrolabel Conseil
	How do you see that Universities worldwide could engage in a Satellite for Peace Alliance? and How can enhanced access to satellite data help researchers better integrate research on peace, conflict, and development needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Katharina Glaab, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) • Prof. Sabina Alkire, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
	If a Satellites for Peace Alliance is to succeed, its greatest innovation will not be technological, but institutional: to create trusted governance frameworks that enable systematic, sustainable, and trusted access to satellite data as a public-interest infrastructure for peace, development, and humanitarian action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Stefaan G. Verhulst, The GovLab (NYU) • Mr. Johan Vibe, NOREF
	How could Foundations benefit from engagement in a Satellites for Peace Alliance and what roles do you foresee would be relevant for Foundations to take in such an alliance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Hewko, Rotary International • Mr. Anthony Kilmani, World Vision International • Mr. Adrian Flynn, The Karman Project
17:00-17:40	Final plenary discussion <u>Core question for discussion:</u> What would be the most important tasks for a potential Satellites for Peace Alliance, and who will be its core stakeholders? <u>Notes:</u> Andreas Tollefsen, Anila Qehaja, Chandler Williams	
17:40	Closing conference comments	Sr. Helen Alford , PASS Prof. Greg Reichberg , PASS/PRIO
17:45	Conference ends	

CLOSING RECEPTION AT THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY	
18:00	Transportation to the Norwegian Embassy in Rome
18:30	Reception
21:00	Buses return to the Carpegna Palace hotel



List of Participants

Sr. Helen ALFORD

Helen Alford is President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and an Ordinary Professor of Economics and Ethics and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of St Thomas (PUST) in Rome.

Sabina ALKIRE

Professor of Poverty and Human Development / Director, OPHI
Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI),
University of Oxford

Ettore BALESTRERO

Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN and other
International Organizations in Geneva
The Holy See (Vatican)

Ariel BENYISHAY

Professor of Economics / Chief Economist
AidData,
College of William and Mary

Mukul BHOLA

Director
United Nations Satellite Centre at the United Nations Institute
for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Mary BROWN

GIS Team Lead
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation / Federal
Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

Giacomo BRUNI

Doctoral Researcher
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Molly BURHANS

geospatial researcher
Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Mirna CARADONNA

Analytics, Security Division Advisor
United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

Alexandre CARAYON

President
Astrolabes Conseil

Michaël CHEMOUNY

Vice President, Head of Geospatial Business
Airbus Defence and Space

Lorant CZARAN

Chief, Space Applications Section
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Ritisha DAS

Research Assistant / Student, Technology and Policy Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Jonathan DEBILDE

Regional Sales Manager, Northern Europe
BlackSky

Sam DUBBERLEY

Director, Technology, Rights & Investigations Division
Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Maja-Stina EKSTEDT

EVP, Sustainability, Public Relations & Communication
Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT)

Ignacio FALCON

Policy, Events and Research Officer
Australian Embassy to the Holy See

Adrian FLYNN

Program Coordinator
The Karman Project

Katharina GLAAB

Associate Professor in Global Change and International Relations
Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

Evie Merethe HAGEN

Lead in International Development
Norwegian Space Agency

Andrew HASSANALI

Strategic Partnerships Manager
Planet; HeritageWatch.AI

John HEWKO

General Secretary and CEO
Rotary International

Kashef IJAZ

Vice President of Health Programs
The Carter Center

Lynn JABRI

Conservation Architect
HeritageWatch.AI

Inge JONCKHEERE

Head, Green Solutions Division
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Private Sector Advisor and SDG Accelerator Lead
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Elliott KELLNER

Executive Director and Chief Financial and Operating Officer
Taylor Geospatial Institute (TGI)

Anne-Julie KERHUEL

Advisor
The Vatican Secretariat of State

Steve KILLELEA

Founder
Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

Anthony KIMANI

IT and Business Analyst, Humanitarian Technologies
World Vision International (WVI)

**Artur KLUZ**

Founder and Managing Partner
Kluz Ventures

Khalid KOSER

Founding Executive Director
Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

H.E. Hellmut LAGOS KOLLER

Ambassador of Chile to Norway
Embassy of Chile in Norway / Chile MFA

Max LAMESCH

Director for Humanitarian Affairs
Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Carmen Milena Antonella LERARIO

CEO
e-GEOS

Larry LEWIS

Research Director
Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)

Olga LIUTA

Project Manager
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Øystein LUND

Science and Education Counselor
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Royal Norwegian
Embassy in London

Helene LUND

Senior Advisor
Norwegian Defence University College

Asmaa MAROUF

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Jannicke MIKKELSEN

Astronaut / Cinematographer / Filmmaker
O2XR

Thomas MORGAN

Chief Research Officer
Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

Chris NEWTON

Senior Analyst for Early Warning
International Crisis Group

Anna OSBORNE

Director of Security Operations Support - Security, Safety &
Resilience
World Vision International (WVI)

H.E. Keith PITT

Ambassador of Australia to the Holy See
Australian Embassy to the Holy See

Daniel PORRAS

Corporate Counsel and Director of International, Government,
and Regulatory Affairs
Rogue Space Systems

Corli PRETORIUS

Head of Research, Analytics, Learning and Innovation
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Rhiannan PRICE

Co-founder
CommonSpace

Anila QEHAJA

Team Leader, Assessments and Digital Solutions
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Nathaniel RAYMOND

Executive Director
Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL),
Yale School of Public Health

Gregory REICHBERG

Research Professor
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and PASS member

Sonia Ruth RINCON

Lieutenant Colonel
Colombian Aerospace Force

Carlos ROMÁN

Business Development, Southern Europe
Vantor Technologies

VantorErin SIKORSKY

Director
Center for Climate and Security (CCS)

Martin Røymo SKEDSMO

Sales Director for Canada & Nordics / Key Account Manager for
Earth Observation
Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT)

Nina SOLENG

Marketing Director
Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT)

Minji SONG

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United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
(UN DPPA)

Trygve SPARR

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Henrik SYSE

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Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Joerg SZARZYNSKI

Head, UN-SPIDER Bonn Office
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Andreas Foro TOLLEFSEN

Senior Researcher
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) / University of Oslo

H.Em. Card. Peter Kodwo Appiah TURKSON

Cardinal, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and
the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
The Holy See (Vatican)

Yves UBELMANN

Founder and CEO
Iconem / HeritageWatch.AI

Teodoro VALENTE

President
Italian Space Agency (ASI)

Jamon VAN DEN HOEK

Associate Professor of Geography and Geospatial Science
Oregon State University

Bernardo VENTURI

Co-founder and Head of Research and Policy
Agency for Peacebuilding (AP)

Stefaan G. VERHULST

Co-founder and Chief R&D Officer
The GovLab,
NYU

Johan VIBE

Director
Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)

Stein VILLUMSTAD

Former General Secretary
European Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace

Andreas VOLLRATH, Forestry Officer

FAO

Sascha WEH

Chief, Division for Peace / Head, Global Maritime Security
Programme
United Nations Institute for Training and
Research (UNITAR)

Thao Ton-That WHELAN

GIS and Remote Sensing Analyst
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Chandler WILLIAMS

Doctoral Researcher
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Danielle WOOD

Associate Professor / Director, Space Enabled Research Group
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Andrew ZOLLI

Chief Impact Officer
Planet



Biographies

UN-ORGANIZATIONS			
1	<p>UNITAR (United Nations Satellite Centre, United Nations Institute for Training and Research)</p> <p>BHOLA Mukul mukul.bhola@unitar.org</p>	<p>Mukul Bhola is the Director of the United Nations Satellite Centre at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Based in Geneva, he leads the Centre’s strategic positioning, partnerships, and operational delivery.</p> <p>He previously served as Director of the Division on NCDs, Digital Health, and Capacity Building at UNITAR, where he built and led its global health portfolio. He is the founder of The Defeat-NCD Partnership, a global initiative supporting countries to develop, finance, and implement programmes to tackle the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases. His career spans over 25 years across UNOPS, UNDP, ILO, UNIC (then under UN DPI, now DGC), UNISDR (now UNDRR), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, focusing on humanitarian operations, health systems, and large-scale programme delivery.</p>	1
2	<p>UNITAR (Peace Division, United Nations Institute for Training and Research)</p> <p>WEH Sascha Sascha.WEH@unitar.org</p>	<p>Sascha Weh is Chief of UNITAR’s Division for Peace Office in Brussels and leads UNITAR’s Global Maritime Security Programme. A senior German police officer with more than 37 years of service and over two decades of international experience, he specialises in maritime security, maritime governance, institutional resilience, and international peace and security cooperation.</p> <p>He oversees UNITAR’s maritime security and governance programmes across Africa, the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe, supporting governments, maritime administrations, coast guards, navies, police, and regional organisations in strengthening maritime resilience, cyber resilience, border security, and cooperative security frameworks.</p> <p>Prior to joining UNITAR, he served as Police Adviser at the German Federal Foreign Office and as Senior Adviser to the Deputy Minister of Interior of Afghanistan, contributing to international stabilisation efforts, institutional reform, and capacity-building initiatives in fragile and complex environments.</p> <p>Through his work at UNITAR, Mr. Weh promotes integrated, partnership-based approaches to (maritime) security, sustainable governance, dialogue, and resilience-building as contributions to peace, human security, and international cooperation.</p>	2
3	<p>UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)</p> <p>CZARAN Lorant czaran@un.org</p>	<p>Lorant Czaran is the Chief of the Space Applications Section at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), coordinating the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the UN Programme on Space Applications, and the Secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG).</p> <p>He worked in the UN System since 1996, starting at UNEP/GRID-Arendal in Norway, then at the U.N. Headquarters with the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, at the UN Disengagement Observer Force in Syria, at UNOCHA and at UNFPA. He also supported UN-led international boundary demarcation projects for Cameroon/Nigeria, Iraq/Kuwait, Eritrea/Ethiopia, and championed geospatial utilization in the UN System since 2001, chairing the UN Geospatial Network for three periods.</p> <p>He represents the United Nations in specialized bodies such as ISO/TC211 and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and currently chairs the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group Disasters.</p>	3



4	<p>UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)</p> <p>SZARZYNSKI Joerg szarzynski@un.org</p>	<p>Joerg Szarzynski is a senior staff member at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), serving as the Head of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) Bonn Office in Germany, with a special focus on initiatives and activities in Africa.</p> <p>Dr. Szarzynski is also an Extraordinary Professor at the African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDS), North-West University, South Africa, and a dedicated active member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, coordinated through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).</p> <p>He worked in the UN System since 2007, starting as Senior Expert at UN-SPIDER. In this capacity, he was acting as the principal desk officer for Africa responsible for coordinating relief efforts, providing technical consultation, and managing critical information. Afterwards he became a Professor and Education Director as well as Head of the Global Mountain Safeguard Programme (GLOMOS) Bonn Office at the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn. In his role as Education Director, he oversaw all academic programs, including the development and launch of the joint master's degree in "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" in collaboration with the University of Bonn. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Szarzynski has contributed to the fields of geospatial technologies in support of Disaster Risk Reduction, multi-hazard Early Warning Systems, Emergency Response Preparedness, and Humanitarian Relief through both research and teaching. Prior to his UN tenure, he worked at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), where he led capacity development coordination for the German Indonesian-Tsunami Early Warning System Project (GITEWS).</p>	4
5	<p>FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations)</p> <p>VOLLRATH, Andreas</p>	<p>Dr. Andreas Vollrath is a remote sensing and forestry expert at FAO's forestry department, where he works as part of the SEPAL team. He holds a B.Sc. in Geography and a M.Sc. in Geoinformatics from the University of Jena, Germany, and a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the University of Pavia, Italy.</p> <p>His technical expertise covers optical and radar image processing and analysis, including data-driven classification and information extraction for environmental mapping and monitoring. Over the course of his career, he has worked at and collaborated with institutions including the European Space Agency, the South African National Space Agency, and the Italian Institute for Geology and Volcanology.</p> <p>At FAO, he provides technical country support for REDD+ and results-based payment schemes, with a specialisation in activity data and forest area estimation. He supports countries in developing robust, statistically sound approaches to measure and report forest area change in line with international good practice guidance.</p>	5
6	<p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>QEHAJA Anila anila.qehaja@undp.org</p>	<p>Anila Qehaja is a Team Leader for Assessments and Digital Solutions at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau. She is an expert in crisis response and recovery, focusing on using digital tools to generate actionable, real-time data to support governments and UNDP country offices.</p> <p>Her work has supported emergency planning, reconstruction, and livelihood restoration in over 60 countries.</p>	6



7	<p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>PRETORIUS Corli corli.pretorius@undp.org</p>	<p>Corli Pretorius is a South African international public policy expert who currently serves as the Head of the Policy, Knowledge, and Partnerships Team within the Crisis Bureau at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).</p> <p>With over 25 years of experience in global environmental governance, sustainable development, and public-private partnerships, she has held high-level leadership positions across major international organizations.</p>	7
8	<p>UN DPPA (United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs)</p> <p>SONG Minji min.song@un.org</p>	<p>Minji Song is a Political Affairs Officer and Team Leader of DPPA's Innovation Cell (Policy and Mediation Division). The Innovation Cell supports DPPA's work in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking through exploring, piloting and scaling new methodologies and technologies.</p> <p>Her work spans digital methods that strengthen conflict analysis and support more inclusive peace and political processes, including responsible AI-enabled approaches. Another example is Geoguard, a publicly available digital dashboard developed with technical and academic partners to support data-informed trend analysis at the intersection of climate, peace and security by leveraging source satellite data.</p>	8
9	<p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>LIUTA Olga Olga.liuta@undp.org</p>	<p>Olga Liuta is Project Manager with the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine, where she leads an initiative focused on strengthening evidence-based recovery planning.</p> <p>The work involves the application of geospatial data, satellite imagery, and other data-driven approaches to support national and local authorities in planning and prioritizing recovery efforts in a complex post-conflict environment.</p>	9
10	<p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>MAROUF Asmaa asmaa.marouf@undp.org</p>	<p>Asmaa Marouf is a GIS & Data Coordinator with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/PAPP), based in the Gaza Strip, specializing in satellite imagery analysis and geospatial systems in humanitarian and recovery contexts. She leads the development and management of GIS platforms supporting damage assessment, infrastructure rehabilitation, and recovery planning. Her work focuses on leveraging earth observation, spatial analysis, and geospatial technologies to support evidence-based decision-making in complex crisis environments. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Geographic Information Systems and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Geomatics Engineering."</p>	10
11	<p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>JUNGE Stine Kristein stine.junge@undp.org</p>	<p>Stine Kirstein Junge works at UNDP's Nordic Office, where she leads fundraising and develops new programmes focused on private-sector partnerships with philanthropy, investors, industry networks etc. She oversees UNDP's Nordic private-sector engagement and has been leading the building and globally scaling of initiatives such as UNLEASH, the SDG Accelerator for SMEs and the Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator.</p> <p>Previously, she was a radio and TV producer and reporter at DR P1, contributing to The Digital Newsroom and producing the TV-documentary series, Sisters in the Sky. She holds a Master's degree in International Development Studies and Communication from Roskilde University.</p>	11



12	<p>WFP (The United Nations World Food Programme)</p> <p>CARADONNA Mirna mirna.caradonna@wfp.org</p>	<p>Mirna Caradonna is a Senior Security Advisor with the Security Division of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome, where she provides strategic guidance to support humanitarian operations in complex and high-risk environments. Her work focuses on security risk management, crisis analysis, operational support, and protection of personnel, assets, and humanitarian activities worldwide.</p> <p>Before joining WFP, she served for nearly three decades with the Italian Ministry of the Interior and the Central Antidrug Directorate, retiring with the rank of General in the Italian National Police. During her distinguished law-enforcement career, she held senior leadership positions in intelligence analysis, strategic planning, and international security cooperation.</p> <p>Caradonna served as Security Liaison Officer in Italian Embassies and worked extensively with European, Latin American, and multilateral partners on transnational organized crime, counter-narcotics operations, and information-sharing initiatives.</p> <p>She was recognized as an Intelligence Network Specialist on cocaine trafficking routes by the European Council and coordinated major international initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among law-enforcement agencies. Her career has combined operational leadership, strategic analysis, training, and institution-building in challenging international environments.</p>	12
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HUMANITARIAN AND PEACE- ORGANIZATIONS

1	<p>PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo)</p> <p>BRUNI Giacomo giabru@prio.org</p>	<p>Giacomo Bruni is a doctoral researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) (since 2022) focusing on the impact of emerging technologies on global affairs, security, and space geopolitics.</p> <p>He leads a PRIO project on Norway’s space policy and security and co-leads the PRIO Security and Technology Research Group.</p>	13
2	<p>HRW (Human Right Watch)</p> <p>DUBBERLEY Sam dubbers@hrw.org</p>	<p>Sam Dubberley is the Director of the Technology, Rights & Investigations Division at Human Rights Watch. In this role, he leads efforts in digital investigations and open source research, as well as work to expose and document human rights abuses in the digital age.</p> <p>Sam’s work at Human Rights Watch includes overseeing HRW’s Digital Investigations Lab verification of online content to corroborate human rights violations, and research to highlight the impact of technology on human rights.</p>	14
3	<p>IEP (Institute for Economics and Peace)</p> <p>MORGAN Thomas TMorgan@economicsandpeace.org</p>	<p>Thomas Morgan is the Chief Research Officer at the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). He previously served as a senior researcher for the institute and has spent years managing the development of their composite indexes.</p> <p>Morgan oversees the data and analysis for the annual Global Peace Index, which ranks nations on peacefulness, safety, and conflict levels.</p>	15
4	<p>The Carter Center</p> <p>IJAZ Kashef kashef.ijaz@cartercenter.org</p>	<p>Kashef Ijaz serves as the Vice President of Health Programs at The Carter Center, a position he has held since October 2020.</p> <p>He leads initiatives to control, prevent, and eradicate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in 18 nations, manages programs for mental health, and oversees health system strengthening.</p>	16
5	<p>IEP (Institute for Economics & Peace)</p> <p>KILLILEA Steve skillelea@economicsandpeace.org</p>	<p>Steve Killelea AM is an Australian IT entrepreneur, philanthropist, and author best known as the founder of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a global think tank that produces the Global Peace Index.</p> <p>Killelea is considered a leading figure in applying data-driven research to the study of peace and conflict, advocating for the “Peace Industry”</p>	17



6	GCERF (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund) KOSER Khalid k.koser@gcerf.org	Dr Khalid Koser is the founding Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, the global fund dedicated to preventing violent extremism. He is Professor of Conflict, Peace, and Security at the University of Maastricht.	18
7	International Crisis Group NEWTON Chris cnewton@crisisgroup.org	Chris Newton is a Senior Analyst for Early Warning within the Environmental Early Action and Risk Tracking Hub (eEARTH) at the International Crisis Group . Based in Boston, he focuses on tracking resources, conflict, and risks related to climate and environment. He has contributed to research on famine risk in Gaza and South Sudan.	19
8	PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo) REICHBERG Gregory greg.reichberg@prio.org	Gregory M. Reichberg is Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), where he co-leads a multi-year project, Ethical Risk Management of AI-enabled Weapons. A philosopher, he also writes on linkages between religion, peace, and conflict. Since 2016 he has been a member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences; in this capacity he has lead organizational responsibility for the present conference.	20
9	PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo) SYSE Henrik syse@prio.org	Henrik Syse is a Research Professor at PRIO, working on ethical questions related to armed and other societal conflicts. A philosopher, he also works on questions related to domestic terrorism, ideology, free speech, and religion. He is a former member and Vice Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee (2015–2020).	21
10	PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo) TOLLEFSEN Andreas Foro andreas@prio.org	Andreas Forø Tollefsen is a Norwegian researcher specializing in human geography and peace research. He holds joint appointments at PRIO and the University of Oslo. His work primarily focuses on the spatial dimensions of armed conflict, migration, and related political developments.	22
11	Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) VENTURI Bernardo b.venturi@peaceagency.org	Bernardo Venturi is an Italian scholar and practitioner specializing in peacebuilding, conflict management, and international politics. He is widely recognized for his work on European Union (EU) foreign policy and security issues in Africa. He is the Co-founder and Head of Research and Policy at the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP). He previously served as the organization's Director for seven years (2015–2023).	23
12	European Council of Religious Leaders - Religion for Peace VILLUMSTAD Stein svillums@hotmail.com	Stein Villumstad is a Norwegian with long experience in international humanitarian and development work with the faith-based Norwegian Church Aid, and who has been deeply involved in interreligious dialogue and conflict transformation. He is recognized for his extensive work in peacebuilding and humanitarian aid, particularly in Africa and Europe. He has served as the General Secretary of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL) . Previously, he was the Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace International in New York for five years.	24
13	NOREF (Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution) VIBE Johan johan.vibe@noref.no	Johan Christopher Vibe is a prominent Norwegian diplomat and civil servant. He is widely recognized for his work in international peace and reconciliation. In 2025, he was appointed Director of the Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution. He has served as Norway's Ambassador to: Italy (2021–2025), Colombia (2016–2018) - where he played a key role in supporting the peace process between the government and FARC, and Spain (2012–2016).	25



14	<p>ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)</p> <p>WHELAN Thao Ton That tonthat@icrc.org</p>	<p>Thao Ton-That Whelan is a GIS and remote sensing analyst working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), specializing in applying, mapping, and geospatial technologies to support humanitarian operations.</p> <p>Based in Geneva, she has been a key figure in integrating advanced technology into humanitarian action, particularly through partnerships with academic institutions like EPFL and ETH Zurich.</p>	26
15	<p>PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo)</p> <p>WILLIAMS Chandler chawil@prio.org</p>	<p>Chandler Vincent Williams is a Doctoral Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and the Department of Political Science at the University of Oslo (UiO).</p> <p>His research focuses on Conflict Forecasting, where he works on developing models for improved anticipatory action as part of the ANTICIPATE project, Civilian Protection, where his work explores the impact of armed conflict on civilian victimization and the destruction of cultural heritage, specifically in the context of the Kosovo War, and predictive Analytics: He utilizes high-resolution spatiotemporal data to forecast wartime destruction of place and attacks on vulnerable targets.</p>	27
16	<p>OPHI, University of Oxford</p> <p>ALKIRE Sabina sabina.alkire@qeh.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Sabina Alkire is Professor of Poverty and Human Development and directs the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford. Previously, she worked at the George Washington University, Harvard University, the Human Security Commission, and the World Bank.</p>	28

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

1	<p>Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (Australian Embassy to the Holy See)</p> <p>PITT Keith holysee.embassy@dfat.gov.au</p>	<p>Keith Pitt is an Australian diplomat and former politician. He was designated Australian Ambassador to the Holy See in February 2025 and presented credentials to Pope Leo XIV in June 2025.</p> <p>Ambassador Pitt began his career as an electrician before becoming an electrical engineer, a farmer, a business owner and a consultant. He graduated in Electrical Engineering from the Queensland University of Technology, becoming a Registered Professional Engineer in the Australian State of Queensland. He maintains links to sugar cane farming in Bundaberg, his hometown.</p> <p>Ambassador Pitt served as a Federal Member of Parliament (MP) for the electoral division of Hinkler, from 2013 to 2025. He also held several positions in Government, including Assistant Minister for Trade Tourism and Investment, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister (Agriculture and Infrastructure) and was a member of the Cabinet as Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia.</p> <p>As a Catholic, Keith values family and community. He is married and has three children. He brings his extensive experience in engineering, agriculture, politics and business to advancing Australia's interest as Ambassador to the Holy See.</p>	29
2	<p>Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (Australian Embassy to the Holy See)</p> <p>FALCON Ignacio Ignacio.Falcon@dfat.gov.au</p>	<p>Ignacio Falcon is the Policy, Research and Events Officer at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See, a position he has held since 2022. He has previous experience in policy roles in the British Civil Service, in the UK Police Service and in local government in London.</p> <p>He graduated (BA) from King's College, University of London in 2006.</p> <p>He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish.</p>	30



3	<p>Chile MFA (Embassy of Chile in Norway)</p> <p>LAGOS Helmut hellmutlagos@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hellmut Lagos Koller is a senior Chilean diplomat currently serving as the Ambassador of Chile to Norway. He presented his credentials to King Harald V on April 24, 2025. Hellmut Lagos Koller is a senior Chilean diplomat currently serving as the Ambassador of Chile to Norway. He presented his credentials to King Harald V on April 24, 2025.</p> <p>Immediately prior to his current posting, he served as the Director of the Division for Science, Energy, Education, Innovation, and Astronomy at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p>	31
4	<p>Luxembourg MFA and European Affairs</p> <p>LAMESCH Max Max.Lamesch@mae.etat.lu</p>	<p>Max Lamesch is a Luxembourgish diplomat who currently serves as the Director for Humanitarian Affairs at the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.</p> <p>He has held several key positions within Luxembourg's diplomatic and humanitarian sectors; Director for Humanitarian Affairs, Head of Asia Department and Chargé d'Affaires for the Embassy of Luxembourg in Ouagadougou, covering both Burkina Faso and Niger from 2016 to 2019.</p>	32
5	<p>The Vatican Secretariat of State (The Vatican MFA)</p> <p>KERHUEL Anne-Julie multilaterale@sds.va</p>	<p>Anne-Julie Kerhuel is a French diplomat and legal scholar who serves as an advisor for the Holy See's mission to the United Nations. As of early 2026, she remains a key figure in the diplomatic and administrative operations of the Vatican.</p> <p>She works within the Section for Relations with States (the second section of the Secretariat of State), which functions as the Vatican's foreign ministry. In this role, she has been involved in presenting high-level messages, such as the Pope's World Day of Peace message.</p>	33
6	<p>The Holy See (Vatican)</p> <p>BALESTRERO Ettore nuntiusge@nuntiusge.org</p>	<p>Archbishop Ettore Balestrero is an Italian prelate and a senior diplomat for the Holy See (Vatican).</p> <p>Balestrero is the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva (appointed June 2023). Before Geneva, he served as the Apostolic Nuncio (Vatican Ambassador) to the DR Congo (2019–2023) and Colombia (2013–2018).</p>	34
7	<p>Colombian Aerospace Force</p> <p>RINCON Sonia Ruth Sonia.rincon@fac.mil.co</p>	<p>Sonia Ruth Rincón Urbina is a high-ranking officer in the Colombian Aerospace Force (COLAF), currently holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>She is a leading figure in Colombia's space program and is widely recognized for her expertise in satellite technology and aerospace research.</p>	35
8	<p>FFI (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment)</p> <p>SPARR Trygve trygve.sparr@ffi.no</p>	<p>Trygve Sparr is a prominent Norwegian physicist and the Director of the Sensor and Surveillance Systems division at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI). He has held this leadership position since 2021.</p> <p>As part of the FFI Executive Group, he oversees research into situational awareness and monitoring systems.</p>	36
9	<p>Norway MFA (Norway's Embassy in London)</p> <p>LUND Øystein Oystein.lund@mfa.no</p>	<p>Øystein Lund currently serves as the Science and Education Counselor (special envoy) at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London, a position under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>He previously served as the Dean of Studies at the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society and has held prominent positions in European networks focused on quality assurance in higher education.</p>	37



10	Italian Space Agency (ASI) VALENTE Teodoro teodoro.valente@asi.it	Teodoro Valente is a prominent Italian scientist and academic who has served as the President of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) since June 14, 2023. He was also appointed as the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) for the 2026–2027 term	38
11	Norwegian Space Agency HAGEN Evie evie@spaceagency.no	Evie Merethe Hagen is a Lead in International Development at the Norwegian Space Agency. Her work focuses on connecting advanced satellite data to end-users for practical applications, such as climate science and environmental and humanitarian protection.	39
12	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/ Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Switzerland BROWN Mary mary.brown@eda.admin.ch	Mary Brown is the GIS Team Lead at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In her role, she focuses on managing the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) team to support Swiss humanitarian aid and development projects worldwide.	40

EXPERTS/ RESEARCHERS

1	AIDDATA BENYISHAY Ariel abenyishay@aiddata.wm.edu	Ariel BenYishay is a development economist specializing in empirical microeconomics and geospatial impact evaluation. He is a Professor of Economics at William & Mary, where he also serves as Chief Economist of AidData, a research and innovation lab. His research focuses on the impacts of foreign aid programs on human health and well-being, as well as environmental sustainability, often leveraging geospatial impact evaluation or randomized trial approaches. He has led AidData's geospatial data efforts for more than a decade, bringing together a multidisciplinary team to tackle critical research questions around climate-resilient development investments. His work has been published in the <i>American Economic Review</i> , <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , <i>Nature Sustainability</i> , and many other outlets.	41
2	NMBU (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) GLAAB Katharina katharina.glaab@nmbu.no	Katharina Glaab is an Associate Professor in Global Change and International Relations at the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric). She specializes in the politics of environmental and socio-technical change, focusing on climate change and the governance of outer space. Glaab leads the NordSpace project on space infrastructures in the Arctic region and leads the WP on 'Space Futures and Equity' in the COST Action 'Futures-Oriented Governance of Outer Space: Towards Peace, Equity, and Environmental Integrity' (FOGOS).	42
3	Taylor Geospatial Institute (TGI) KELLNER Elliott elliott.kellner@taylorgeospatial.org	Dr. Elliott Kellner is a recognized leader in geospatial technology and agricultural innovation, currently serving as the Executive Director and Chief Financial and Operating Officer at the Taylor Geospatial Institute (TGI) in St. Louis. Appointed to this role in late 2025, he leads efforts to grow collaboration across research, government, and industry to apply geospatial science to real-world challenges.	43



4	O2XR MIKKELSEN Jannike Jm@o2xr.com	Jannicke Mikkelsen is a Norwegian astronaut astronaut, award-winning cinematographer, and specialized filmmaker known for her expertise in 3D, virtual reality (VR), and capturing footage in extreme environments. Her career highlights include: Space Commander: On April 1, 2025, she made history as the vehicle commander for Fram2, the first human spaceflight mission to fly over Earth's polar regions. This achievement made her the first Norwegian woman in space. Pioneer in Film Technology: She specializes in next-generation cinematography, including 3D animation and 360° video	44
5	Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) RAYMOND Nathaniel nathaniel.raymond@yale.edu	Nathaniel Raymond is a prominent American human rights investigator and an expert in the use of technology to document war crimes and humanitarian crises. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the at the Yale School of Public Health. From 2010 to 2012, he was the Director of Operations for the Satellite Sentinel Project , co-founded by George Clooney. This project used high-resolution satellite imagery to document mass atrocities and attacks on civilians in Sudan and South Sudan.	45
6	Center for Climate and Security (CCS). SIKORSKY Erin esikorsky@csrisk.org	Erin Sikorsky is the Director of the Center for Climate and Security (CCS). She leads this nonpartisan research institute in Washington, D.C. Sikorsky is a prominent American expert in climate security and national security. She currently holds several key leadership positions focused on the geopolitical and conflict risks posed by climate change.	46
7	Center for Security Studies (CSS) STICHER Valerie valerie.sticher@sipo.gess.ethz.ch	Valerie Sticher is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich , specializing in the dynamics of armed conflicts, peace processes, and the application of emerging technologies in conflict monitoring. She investigates how satellite imagery (including nighttime light data) and machine learning can be used to identify humanitarian crises and automate the detection of war-related damage in conflict zones. Sticher is also an expert on the strategic role of ceasefires in peace negotiations.	47
8	Oregon State University VAN DEN HOEK Jamon jamon.vandehoek@oregonstate.edu	Jamon Van Den Hoek , PhD, is an Associate Professor of Geography and Geospatial Science at Oregon State University . He is primarily known as a remote sensing scientist and the director of the Conflict Ecology Lab, a research hub that uses satellite imagery and machine learning to document the social and environmental consequences of armed conflict.	48
9	The GovLab (NYU) VERHULST Stefaan stefaan@thegovlab.org	Stefaan G. Verhulst is a Belgian-born expert in data, technology, and governance, renowned for his work on how data and artificial intelligence (AI) can be leveraged to address complex societal challenges. Verhulst is the Co-founder and Chief R&D Officer at the GovLab (NYU), that focused on improving decision-making through data.	49
10	Iconem/HeritageWatch.AI UBELMANN Yves yu@iconem.com	Yves Ubelmann is a French architect and technologist who is the founder and CEO of Iconem , a Paris-based startup specializing in the digital preservation of endangered cultural heritage sites. Through Iconem, Ubelmann leads projects that combine photogrammetry, drone technology, and AI to create ultra-realistic 3D models (digital twins) of historical locations.	50



11	<p>HeritageWatch.AI</p> <p>JABRI Lynn lynn.jabri@heritagewatch.ai</p>	<p>Lynn Jabri is a Conservation Architect who works for HeritageWatch.AI. Jabri’s work involved Cultural Heritage Preservation; Documenting, assessing, and safeguarding natural and cultural heritage sites threatened by geopolitical conflicts, infrastructure projects, and environmental changes.</p> <p>She is also working alongside archaeologists and data analysts to utilize modern technology—such as satellite imagery, 3D modeling, and automated data processing—to monitor and create structural risk assessments for endangered global heritage sites</p>	51
12	<p>Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)</p> <p>LEWIS Larry larry.l.lewis@gmail.com</p>	<p>Larry Lewis is a prominent researcher and expert specializing in civilian protection, artificial intelligence (AI) safety, and autonomous systems at the CNA Corporation (Center for Naval Analyses).</p> <p>He is the founder and former Director of CNA’s Center for Autonomy and Artificial Intelligence (CAAI) and currently serves as a Research Director there.</p>	52
13	<p>MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)</p> <p>WOOD Danielle drwood@media.mit.edu</p>	<p>Danielle Wood is an Associate Professor at the MIT Media Lab and the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Her work focuses on using space technology to address social and environmental challenges on Earth.</p> <p>As director of the Space Enabled Research Group: She leads this group at the Media Lab to advance justice and sustainability. They focus on six specific space technologies: satellite earth observation, communication, positioning, microgravity research, technology transfer, and the inspiration of space research.</p>	53
14	<p>MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)</p> <p>DAS Risha Rdas100@mit.edu</p>	<p>Ritisha Das is a dual M.S. candidate in Aeronautics/ Astronautics and Technology/Policy at MIT, where her research extends the Space Sustainability Rating to address the full satellite mission lifecycle in the Engineering Systems Lab. She is a 2026 Matthew Isakowitz Commercial Space Scholar and a 2024 Brooke Owens Fellow. She works as a satellite systems engineer at Airbus US Space & Defense and as a research associate at the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, bridging federal and private-sector space policy.</p>	54
15	<p>Norwegian Defence University College</p> <p>LUND Helene helelund@mil.no</p>	<p>Helene Lund is Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Defence University College, where she works closely with senior leadership on the development of institutional strategy in research and education. Developing external and international relations is an integral dimension of her work, which places particular emphasis on strengthening civil–military collaboration and fostering cross-sector partnerships.</p> <p>Dr Lund brings extensive leadership experience from higher education, having held senior roles including Pro-Rector for Education at VID Specialized University, Pro-Rector for Research at NLA University College, and senior academic positions in theology, ethics, and leadership. She has also served as Head of Department at Oslo Metropolitan University.</p> <p>She holds a doctorate in theology and has a longstanding engagement at the intersection of academia, leadership, and values-based education. In addition to her academic and strategic work, she has contributed to international and institutional governance.</p>	55



16	<p>Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (PUST)</p> <p>ALFORD Helen</p>	<p>Helen Alford has a PhD in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Cambridge, with a thesis on “human-centred technology”, after which she joined the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, Natal (South Africa). She is now an Ordinary Professor of Economics and Ethics and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the PUST. Her research mostly looks at the impact of ethics and Christian social thought on the fields of management, sustainability and artificial intelligence. She is an Ordinary Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, of which she was nominated President by Pope Francis in April 2023.</p>	56
17	<p>Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (PUST)</p> <p>BURHANS Molly mailto:m.burhans@pust.it</p>	<p>Molly Burhans is a cartographer, environmental advocate, and geospatial researcher focusing on the geography of the Catholic Church and spatial data infrastructure. A National Geographic Explorer and UN Young Champion of the Earth, her work has used high-resolution earth observation data combined with cadastral data to enable the digital transformation of large landholders real asset management, foster environmental stewardship, and support human flourishing. In 2016 she led the ESRI Application Prototype Lab to create the first global data-based maps of the Catholic Church’s governing jurisdictions across three administrative levels.</p>	57

DATA PROVIDERS

1	<p>Airbus</p> <p>CHEMOUNY Michael michael.chemouny@airbus.com</p>	<p>Michaël Chemouny is currently the Vice President, Head of Geospatial Business at Airbus Defence and Space, a position he has held since September 2022.</p> <p>Based in Toulouse, France, he leads a team of over 500 people, with P&L (Profit and Loss) responsibility for commercial satellite imagery, geospatial services, and defence analytics.</p>	58
2	<p>BlackSky</p> <p>DEBILDE Jonathan jdebilde@blacksky.com</p>	<p>Jonathan Debilde is the Regional Sales Manager for Northern Europe at BlackSky. Based in Belgium, he is responsible for driving sales, particularly in the defense and intelligence sectors.</p> <p>In his role, he often presents on topics related to leveraging AI-powered Earth observation and satellite imagery to track critical assets with high-frequency, low-latency intelligence.</p>	59
3	<p>KSAT (Kongsberg Satellite Services)</p> <p>EKSTEDT Maja-Stina maja-stina.ekstedt@ksat.no</p>	<p>Maja-Stina Ekstedt is the Executive Vice President (EVP) of Sustainability, Public Relations & Communication at KSAT - Kongsberg Satellite Services, where she is a key member of the management group.</p> <p>She leads the company’s sustainability initiatives, focusing on green, future-proof solutions and, as of late 2024, plays a central role in promoting responsible space practices.</p>	60
4	<p>KSAT</p> <p>SOLENG Nina nina@ksat.no</p>	<p>Nina Soleng is the Marketing Director (also referred to as the Communications and Marketing Director) at KSAT (Kongsberg Satellite Services). She is a key spokesperson for the company and has over 15 years of experience in the satellite industry.</p> <p>Beyond communications, she has deep knowledge of ground station services and Earth observation. In earlier roles, she focused specifically on maritime surveillance services, such as oil spill detection and ship tracking.</p>	61
5	<p>Vantor</p> <p>ROMÁN Carlos Carlos.Roman@vantor.com</p>	<p>Carlos Román is a Business Development professional with over 25 years of experience in the geospatial industry. Carlos brings deep expertise in Earth observation, geospatial solutions, and satellite applications, supporting government and institutional customers with mission-critical insights. For the past eight years, he has been with Vantor Technologies, where he leads business development activities for Southern Europe in the Defense and Intelligence market.</p>	62



6	Planet HASSANALI Andrew andrew.hassanali@planet.com	Andrew Hassanali serves as a Strategic Partnerships Manager at Planet (also known as Planet Labs PBC). His work primarily focuses on the intersection of satellite technology and global development.	63
7	CommonSpace PRICE Rhiannan rhiannan@commonsace.world	Rhiannan Price is the co-founder of Common Space , a nonprofit building the world's first independent, community-governed humanitarian satellite constellation. Previously, she designed and led NASA Lifelines, a global initiative connecting humanitarians, scientists, and researchers as they accelerate use of satellite data. As the global lead for sustainable development at DigitalGlobe (then Maxar), she founded their Open Data Program, enabling access to open satellite imagery for disaster response.	64
8	KSAT SKEDSMO Martin Martin.skedsmo@ksat.no	Martin Røymo Skedsmo serves as a Sales Director for Canada & Nordics and a Key Account Manager for Earth Observation (EO) at KSAT - Kongsberg Satellite Services. Skedsmo manages key accounts, promoting satellite-based Earth observation services to clients in Canada and the Nordic region, including promoting "green" initiatives. He has over 30 years of experience in the EO business, covering both public and private sectors.	65
9	Planet ZOLLI Andrew andrew@planet.com	Andrew Zolli is the Chief Impact Officer at Planet (Planet Labs), a geospatial imaging company that operates the largest constellation of Earth-observing satellites in history. In this role, he leads the organization's efforts to use satellite data and AI to address critical global challenges.	66
10	ESA JONCKHEERE Inge Inge.Jonckheere@esa.int	Inge Jonckheere is a Belgian space scientist and environmental engineer who serves as the Head of the Green Solutions Division at the European Space Agency (ESA). She has extensive international experience, notably as a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Before joining ESA, she worked on forest monitoring (REDD+) and climate change with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.	67

FOUNDATIONS

1	World Vision International (WVI) KIMANI Anthony anthony_kimani@wvi.org	Anthony Kimani works as an IT and Business Analyst in humanitarian technologies at World Vision International (WVI) . His work focuses on leveraging technology for emergency response and field operations, specifically: Humanitarian Technology & Connectivity, Emergency Preparedness, and Digital Transformation.	68
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2	Kluz Ventures KLUZ Artur akluz@kluzventures.com	Artur Kluz is the founder and Managing Partner of Kluz Ventures , an investment firm focused on disruptive technologies and long-term, impact-driven investments in AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, and deep tech. He specializes in “PeaceTech,” leveraging technology to resolve conflict, and created the Kluz Prize for PeaceTech to support innovations like AI-driven diagnostics, drone surveillance, and, satellite data for humanitarian efforts.	69
3	World Vision International (WVI) OSBORNE Anna anna_osborne@wvi.org	Anna Osborne is the Director of Security Operations Support - Security, Safety & Resilience at Wold Vision International.	70
4	Rotary International HEWKO John john.hewko@rotary.org	John Hewko is an American attorney and public policy expert who serves as the General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International and its charitable arm, The Rotary Foundation. In this role, which he has held since 2011, he manages a global staff of approximately 800 people and oversees the strategic and operational functions of one of the world’s largest service organizations.	71
5	The Karman Project FLYNN Adrian adrian@karmanproject.org	Adrian Flynn is the Program Coordinator of The Karman Project , a Berlin-based non-profit foundation advancing peace and security in outer space affairs through strategic international cooperation. Working across programming, partnerships, and strategy, he collaborates with public and private sector space leaders from 70+ nations to drive impact in diplomacy, sustainability, education, science, empowerment, and capacity building. Adrian’s background is in international relations and public policy analysis, and he has published research on international space cooperation in Astropolitics and Scholarship@Claremont.	72

STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATION			
1	ASTROLABES CONSEIL CARAYON Alexandre astrolabes.conseil@gmail.com	Alexandre Carayon is the founder and President of the consulting company ASTROLABES CONSEIL providing custom advice in AI-based engineering and Earth Observation . ASTROLABES CONSEIL offers 3 types of services to its clients in public or private sectors: As a Business Referral or Sales Agent to boost their revenues in a flexible way As an Advisor to improve their market understanding and design their acquisition strategy. As a Talent facilitator to speed up their recruitment process whether they are an employer or a candidate.	73
2	Rogue Space Systems PORRAS Daniel Daniel.Porras@rogue.space	Daniel Porras is a prominent space lawyer and international policy expert who specializes in space security, governance, and the development of sustainable norms for human outer space activities. Porras currently serves as Corporate Counsel and Director of International, Government, and Regulatory Affairs at Rogue Space Systems, a company focused on orbital robotics and in-space logistics. He also sits on the Advisory Board of Civic Space, a project to deploy a remote-sensing constellation exclusively for civil society and humanitarian organisations.	74



Memorandum

PICKUP SCHEDULE ON 23-24-25 June 2026

- On 23 June at h. 6.00pm a Vatican bus will accompany participants who will stay at the *Carpegna Palace hotel* to the Casina Pio IV, venue of the meeting for the reception, and back to the hotel at h. 8.30pm.
- On 24 June at h. 8.15am a Vatican bus will accompany participants who will stay at the *Carpegna Palace hotel* to the Casina Pio IV and back, after dinner at h. 8.00pm.
- On 25 June at h. 8.15am a Vatican bus will accompany participants who will stay at the *Carpegna Palace hotel* to the Casina Pio IV. At h. 6.00pm a Vatican bus will accompany all the participants to the Norwegian Embassy for the closing reception. At h. 21.00 the same bus will accompany back to the hotel only participants who will stay at the *Carpegna Palace hotel*.
- For all other participants, instructions to reach the Casina Pio IV, headquarters of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, can be found in the following link: <https://www.pass.va/en/about/contacts-and-maps.html>
- You can enter the Vatican through the Vatican gate called Perugino, located in via della Stazione Vaticana: ([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e2/Porta del Perugino_20141004_131702.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e2/Porta_del_Perugino_20141004_131702.jpg))
- **Dress Code** is business attire.
- **Food:** We will provide coffee breaks, lunch and dinner on 23, 24 and 25 June. If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements, please let us know in advance.
- **Powerpoint presentation:** if you wish to have visual presentations for your talks, please send them to the Secretariat in advance of the conference.
- **Security:** invites are strictly personal. Please remember to bring a valid ID.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please refer to www.pass.va and www.pas.va for further information on the Academies, the Academicians, and current and past events.



WI-FI network: academy-guest
Password: G@rdens1936

Chiesa di Santo Stefano degli Abissini
St Stephen of the Abyssinians Church

Sede della Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze Scienze Sociali
Seat of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
(Casina Pio IV)

Ingresso del Perugino
The 'Perugino' gate

Ingresso Musei Vaticani
Entrance gate to the Vatican Museum

Domus Sanctae Marthae

Altare Tomba S. Pietro
Altar of St Peter's Tomb


Ingresso Sant'Uffizio
The 'Sant'Uffizio' gate

Ingresso Sant'Anna
The 'Sant'Anna' gate



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