



SPACE GENERATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Youth in the Development of Space Policy

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE
APPLICATIONS

Table of Contents

1. Introduction of SGAC
2. The Value of Including Youth & Their Needs in Space Policy Development
3. Example: Youth Forum at the Space Conference of the Americas
4. Conclusions





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SGAC Introduction

Concept of the “Space Generation”

- People born after October 4th, 1957 are born into a completely different world
- Growing up in a world where space technology and human life is irreversibly intertwined
- Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC): Non-profit organisation of university students and young professionals that are 18 - 35 years of age



Basic Facts about SGAC

- Is a non-profit organisation that represents university students and young professionals (18-35 year olds) in international space policy
- Started as a result of the 1999 UNISPACE-III conference
- Has been a permanent observer in UN COPUOS since 2001 and a member of the UN Economic and Social Council since 2003
- Has today a volunteer professional network of ~4,000 members in 90 countries

*“To create, within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, **a consultative mechanism to facilitate the continued participation of young people from all over the world**, especially young people from developing countries and young women, in cooperative space-related activities...”*

-Vienna Declaration, 1999



SGAC Products

- Conferences
 - Space Generation Congress (SGC)
 - Space Generation Fusion Forum
- Projects
 - Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (YGNSS)
 - Near Earth Objects Group
 - Space Tech for Disaster Management
 - Space Safety & Sustainability
- Pragmatic Policy Suggestions
 - Reports to United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
 - Augustine Commission Response
 - Recommendations from SGCs





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The Value of Including Youth & Their Needs in Space Policy

Why Include Issues of Younger People in Space Programme Development?

- Inspiration of the next generation of scientists and engineers (for space or other technical careers)
- Increased support from public and government through the connection to education
- Workforce / pipeline planning imperative to long-term space programmes
 - Needs at all levels of education (primary, university, & continuing studies)
 - Cost savings through indigenous programmes and servicing
 - Independence



Why encourage young people's perspectives in space programme development?

- New space programmes need to reach for and incorporate new technologies – young adults can provide innovative thinking
- Space technologies and policies take years/decades to produce – give young adults buy-in now
- The process of bringing young people in to discuss space programme development could lead to other benefits – development of networks for individuals and a more cohesive workforce





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Example: Space
Conference of the America's
Youth Forum

Youth Forum Facts

- November 16 & 17, 2010 in Pachuca, Mexico
- 200 young professionals and university students involved in or interested in the space sector
- Delegates discussed main topics of the Space Conference of the Americas
 - Space Policy, Space Law and Youth Vision
 - The Environment, Natural Disasters and Protecting Our Heritage
 - Education and Health
 - Technological Development, Industry and Scientific Research
- 25 recommendations refined to 11 in four categories



Space Law & Policy

- Encourage the development and monitoring of policies **linking space industry, government and academia**, to allow for the development of space science and technology in the Americas.
- Develop policy to facilitate and **encourage the creation of a space agency in each Latin American country** to allow collaboration among them the development of a space community in the region.
- **Promote a bilateral relationship between space agencies and the private sector.**



Environment, Natural Disasters & the Protection of World Heritage Sites

- **Develop an environmental monitoring system** to prevent and mitigate disasters caused by natural and human.
- **Establish agreements between countries** for the development of space technology focused monitoring and utilisation of natural resources.
- Promote the use of space technology for the **protection of cultural heritage sites.**



Health & Education

- Promote and encourage the use of **space technologies for medical applications**, particularly tele-medicine.
- **Create academic programmes for the training of business, academic and governmental specialists** for the space sector, in addition to traditional scientists.
- **Facilitate the exchange of information between institutions of higher education** on research in space science and technology.



Technological Development, Industry, & Scientific Research

- **Generate standards to allow for easy integration of hardware and software,** particularly satellite platforms.
- **Establish regional working groups** to promote new projects for space research, development, and applications.



Event Value

- Introduced policy issues to the technical crowd
- Promoted regional thinking vs. national-only thinking
- Inclusion into Pachuca Declaration gave a sense of buy-in / ownership
- Promoted forward, actionable thinking
- Created and reinforced networks for the attendees





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Conclusions

Conclusions

- Consideration of youth and young adults in space programme development is imperative – not a “nice to have”
- Supporting the next generation of space workforce ensures a long-term space programme
- Inclusion of youth encourages fresh thinking in this field with many technical barriers to overcome

