

SYMPOSIUM ON STEPPING STONES TO THE FUTURE: STRATEGIES, ARCHITECTURES,
CONCEPTS AND TECHNOLOGIES (D3)

Strategies and Architectures to Establish a “Stepping Stone” Approach to our Future in Space (1)

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THE YOUTH SPACE VISION FOR THE NEXT DECADE: THE NEXT GENERATION NETWORK
LOOKS BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

Abstract

The Space Generation Advisory Council in support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (SGAC) is a non-governmental organization of 4,000 members in 90+ countries which aims to represent university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, States, and other space agencies and organizations. In 2009, SGAC celebrated its ten year anniversary, and it was this milestone that inspired its 10 Year Anniversary Conference in June 2009, which was attended by members of the SGAC community from six continents and 21 States.

The conference aimed to lead the attendees in a review of the past ten years of the politics of space as well as the “spacescape” (i.e., the overview of the organizations conducting space activities such as launching vehicles, owning satellites, or purchasing space-based services). The point of this review was to help analyze how the global community should adapt to the growth in the spacescape and what role the youth should play in the next decade.

What resulted is a decadal vision from the youth (approximately 18-35 year olds) of the direction of global development and challenges, the role of the space sector in this development, and how SGAC and the youth it represents could best contribute to the development. In particular, the paper examines how to best integrate the new space players and how to best lay bridges to new players from non-space sectors who have much to benefit from space applications. The international community stands at a crossroads in the progress of humans in space. This paper represents a first step the youth are making in taking advantage of this watershed moment to establish an updated, pertinent role for the next ten years and to have our voices heard in the sustainable development of the spacescape.