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APPLYING FUTURE FORESIGHT IN SPACE SECTOR- UAESA CASE STUDY

Abstract

After the announcement of the MARS-2117 plan in 2017, the UAE space sector started to align its policies, strategies and plans towards achieving this much sought-after vision of inhabiting planet Mars in 2117. Since then, the UAE Space Sector has been using future foresight tools to shape the future of the forthcoming 100 years and define opportunities, trends and challenges. This is aligned with the working nuances of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Future (MOCAF) and the Future Foresight Strategy, in which it supports government entities to develop innovative and flexible strategic plans adjustable to any variabilities. It also aims to promote the utilization of future trends, foresights and challenges in favor of improving the future of governments, including the UAE Space Agency.

This paper will describe the UAE Space Agency's methodology in identifying the future scenarios of the UAE Space Sector using the identified tools by MOCAF. Specifically, the paper will describe the results of the different steps of the future foresight scenarios. First, defining the future context and scope in which the UAE Space agency has identified the following scopes: RD, International laws and regulations, capabilities, human resources, corporate strategies, and objectives. Second, it shows how the UAE Space Agency has identified the current and future trends and their impacts on the global, Middle East and the UAE regions, through combined methods of horizon scanning, crowd sourcing, questionnaires and interviews. In this step, the UAE Space Agency has utilized its Advisory Committee which includes a number of key individuals on the strategic level in the field of outer space, such as former head of leading space agencies and astronauts. In addition, the Agency has made use of significant events and gathering, such as the Global Space Congress, to have the insights of many other space experts. Those results have been filtered and will be displayed in this paper. Third, this paper will show how the uncertainties with great impact have been identified and categorized using the Delphi method analysis. Finally, those uncertainties have been used to formulate the future scenarios in different fields identified within the scope, and their potential impact of plausible future and the recommended strategy, policy and priority.