22nd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON VISIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE (D4)
Interactive Presentations - 22nd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON VISIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE
FUTURE (IP)

Author: Mrs. Victoria Valdivia
Chile

Ms. Viktoria Urban
United Kingdom

"THE PREVALENCE OF NEURODIVERGENT PROFILES IN THE SPACE SECTOR AND THEIR
IMPACT ON DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES FOR THE FUTURE OF SPACE ACTIVITIES"

Abstract

Over the course of more than 60 years, spanning from the inaugural launch of a man-made artificial satellite, the rapid evolution of the space industry has encountered numerous challenges related to international interstate dynamics and the governance of outer space activities. Drawing from the model of multilateral mechanisms that underpins the international governance of outer space, the number of key actors involved in decision-making processes remains remarkably low. Approximately 200 individuals are tasked with representing humanity and deciding the trajectory of future outer space activities. This scarcity underscores the necessity for specific and diverse profiles among stakeholders to address the multifaceted challenges of the evolving space landscape. Although these concepts are recognizable in international relations theories, the incorporation of stakeholders' neurological characteristics into this knowledge has seldom been explored. This gap in research leads to significant challenges in reaching consensus and constructing a flexible yet precise model for international governance. Essentially, this presents the challenge of reconciling diverse interests. This paper, under an international studies methodology, aims to explore how the prevalence of neurodivergent profiles impacts on the decision-making process surrounding the international governance of outer space, contributing to understanding the future of outer space activities governance from the study of human nature and profiles inside the space sector. To reach this goal, this research will apply a survey to compile statistics on the prevalence of neurodivergence within the space community, contributing to international academia with relevant data that will be useful for third processes regarding inclusion and Space Agenda 2030 goals. This data will offer valuable insights to the international academic community, aiding in informed decision-making processes pertaining to inclusion and the goals of the Space Agenda 2030. Lastly, owing to its novelty and originality, this paper is poised to pave the way for new interdisciplinary research avenues in the field of outer space studies.