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WOMEN, SPACE LAW AND POLICY, AND THE SDGS: PAVING THE PATH FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

Abstract

Education in space law and policy can play an instrumental role in creating better leaders and role models for tomorrow, particularly among women, who can inspire other women to pursue careers in the space sector. Skills in space law and policy are vital to ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities, play an equal role in decision-making, and, most importantly, give back to the space community through their unique contributions. As stipulated in the Space2030 agenda, the promotion of diversity and gender parity in space activities is one of the key goals to ensure better access to opportunities for women in science and technology.

Education programmes tailored to match the demands of this vision in partner universities across the world can enable the participation of women in space-related careers, including space law and policy. As advocates in this domain, they would be more equipped to lay down the foundation for a fair governance framework with an emphasis on the equal participation of women as stakeholders in the policy-making process. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs [UNOOSA] has been playing a pivotal role in capacity-building in this sector. By working closely with the interested universities, the UNOOSA can help to develop, plan, and execute capacity-building programs for women in science and technology in the respective countries.

Such programmes may be implemented through conferences, workshops, seminars, and symposia, focusing on encouraging women to pursue careers in this sector and helping identify Space Ambassadors who can engage in advocacy work. These activities would also align with the broad targets under the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs], such as SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). Through the persistent efforts of the women advocates, other goals such as SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (climate action) can also be realised.

Their efforts to improve access to the sector through dialogue, interaction, and collaboration with other stakeholders would be directly related to SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals). This research paper aims to highlight that through the active participation of women in space activities and space-related careers, we can pave the path for a more inclusive, empowered, and driven community that contributes to the creation of a better tomorrow.