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ESTABLISHING THE YOUTH'S POSITION ON RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR IN OUTER SPACE

Abstract

In the past decades, the space sector has evolved significantly with an increasing number of space assets launched into space, the emergence of private actors, new business models and activities, rising emerging spacefaring nations as well as a renewed interest in exploration and human spaceflight. In parallel, there has been an increase in hostile and unfriendly approaches, unusual and unwarranted maneuvers, ASAT tests, electronic and cyberattacks. In this context, the need for responsible behaviour in outer space has been the focus of established decision makers' agendas in the past few years so as to avoid misunderstandings and accidents in space operations and ensure the sustainability of space activities. Similarly to climate change, there has been difficulty among States to agree on norms of responsible behaviour in outer space. Ultimately, it will be up to the next generation to protect and ensure the usability of this global common and it is essential to harness the perspective of the youth in the matter. This paper will therefore aim to provide an overview of the youth's activities and positions in the realm of responsible behaviour in outer space. The paper will first provide an overview of activities and projects carried out by the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) in this domain in the past two years. Mapped activities will provide a multidisciplinary view of the priorities and topics which interest the younger generation. Then, the paper will attempt to provide the youth's vision and position regarding responsible behaviour in outer space, drawing into the recommendations made by SGAC members in their numerous projects. This abstract is submitted as part of SGAC's Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP).