



SPACE GENERATION
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Perspective Blog

2024 ASCEND – Young Voices on Responsible Space Behavior Workshop

NCAC Task Force, Space Generation Advocacy & Policy Platform

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NCAC Task Force members Kryn Ambs, Lindsey Wiser, and Shreya Srivathsan attended the [2024 ASCEND conference](#) to support the SGAC Workshop "Shaping the Cosmos: Young Voices on Responsible Space Behavior." This workshop gathered recommendations for ensuring responsible utilization of space, incorporating the insights of young people to define a roadmap for policy frameworks and future activities. NCAC Task Force Lead, Lindsey Wiser, served as a panel member for the workshop, while Kryn Ambs (Communications Lead) and Shreya Srivathsan (Policy Lead) supported the breakout session as Subject Matter Experts.



ASCEND

ASCEND unites the civil, commercial, and national security space sectors, and related industries, to tackle challenges in the space sector. The 2024 ASCEND conference facilitated technical exchanges, debates, and global collaborations across the space sector to forge a sustainable off-world future for all.

Workshop

The objectives of the "Shaping the Cosmos: Young Voice on Responsible Space Behavior" Workshop were to capture the insights of younger generations and recognize their crucial role in defining the norms and ethics for humanity's use and exploration of outer space. The event began with a panel discussion featuring experts from various space-related fields. The panel provided an overview of the current landscape of responsible behavior in space, its challenges, and the importance of establishing norms for responsible behavior. Following the panel, participants joined a breakout session to reflect on the topic. The breakout session encouraged participants to brainstorm specific recommendations for key stakeholders in the private space



sector and consider how these entities can promote and uphold responsible practices in space exploration and utilization.

Participant Recommendations

1. Education & Leadership:

- Encourage leading commercial space companies and national space programs to model responsible practices via rewards and incentives.
- Encourage more education on space topics for policy-makers. Include expert advisors in the policy-making process.
- Develop educational curricula within both countries and institutions to foster a deeper understanding of responsible space behavior.
- Advocate for industry standard organizations to communicate and engage internationally.

2. Affordability and Incentives:

- Develop strategies to make sustainable practices affordable, preventing customers from choosing cheaper, less sustainable options.
- Explore subsidized efforts for sustainability, especially for emerging space actors.

3. Policy and Agreement Promotion:

- Advocate for the signing of and adherence to international agreements on responsible behavior, such as the [Artemis Accords](#).
- Encourage diverse international agreements with significant input beyond Western unions.
- Create a globally accepted definition for responsible and sustainable space behaviors, with clear criteria and guidelines.

4. Intergovernmental Coordination:

- Promote an intergovernmental approach involving organizations like UNOOSA, but address current challenges in UN processes, including the slow pace and disproportionate delegation sizes and knowledge between countries.
- Establish standards for UN delegations to promote equal opportunities and expertise in decision-making processes.
- Increase public advocacy involvement in decision-making and voting processes.
- Encourage private space actors to consider the impact of their activities on terrestrial stakeholders, including indigenous communities.

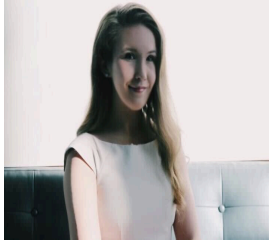
In conclusion, the workshop participants made the above recommendations regarding implementing policy frameworks for responsible space behavior. The SGAC team will assess the collected recommendations collectively to derive actionable steps and outline a roadmap for incorporating these into broader policy and educational frameworks. This forward-looking



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approach will actively involve the voices of the younger generation in shaping the future of responsible behavior in outer space.

Author Bios:



Kryn Ambs serves as a Payload Mission Manager at Axiom Space and a 2018 Brooke Owens Fellow. She received a B.S. in Aviation from Eastern Michigan University, a B.S. in Spaceflight Operations & Human Factors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Graduate Certificate in Commercial Space Studies, a program jointly led by the International Space University (ISU) and Florida Institute of Technology (FIT).



Lindsey Wisner is an astrophysics Ph.D. candidate at Arizona State University, SGAC's National Point of Contact for the United States, and the Lead of SGAC's NCAC Policy & Advocacy Task Force. Her scientific research focuses on characterizing exoplanet atmospheres with space telescopes. She works to combine her backgrounds in science, policy, and engineering, to design future space missions and support science through policy.



Shreya Srivathsan is an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan studying political science, interdisciplinary astro, with a potential minor in public policy. Shreya serves as an election officer with Ann Arbor, is a Running Start fellow, and the Policy Lead for the SGAC NCAC Policy & Advocacy Task Force.