

IAC 2021 Next Generation Plenary Proposal
Social Responsibility in Space: How the Next Generation is Leading the Charge

72nd INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

Dubai, UAE

25 - 29 October 2021

Students and Young Professionals, We Want Your Input!

Social responsibility in space ensures that the inspirations and innovations of today's space sector are implemented in ethical and sustainable ways. The unique environment of space creates challenges and benefits for working toward more sustainable and equitable practices for the future. Across the globe, the Next Generation is leading the charge on social responsibility, and this plenary will highlight how the students and young professionals of the space sector are leading that charge in our industry.

Social responsibility is concerned with both the internal and external cultures of spacefaring and space policy making organizations (in both the public and private sector), combining the need for profitable and/or ethical practices with a concern for their effects on society as whole. As we push the frontiers of space exploration and utilization, it is increasingly necessary for companies to consider the ramifications, both positive and negative, of their activities on the space environment and to humanity as a whole. Frameworks such as the Outer Space Treaty, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, or the recent Artemis Accords, along with corporate social responsibility commitments can help us to understand the goals of equitable practices in space, but also leave questions about their implementation. We must ask ourselves how we balance progress with protection, and how do we move forward in space while ensuring no one is left behind?

Are you an entrepreneur who is utilizing space technologies for clean fuel or to provide internet access to remote populations? Are you a student conducting research to discover the effects of satellite constellations on astronomy or how activities in space may reproduce inequalities on Earth? Perhaps you're a young professional working for a government agency or private company on social responsibility initiatives and you want to share your unique perspective on how the industry is working on this global issue? We want to know how you are leading the way in promoting social responsibility in space, and we encourage you to apply today!

We want your input now! We invite you to share your ideas in a plenary panel with an audience of senior space leaders in government, industry and academia at the International Astronautical Congress in Dubai 25-29 October 2021!

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to address and influence the international space community.

Though this plenary is still in the application stages, if approved, it will take place during the week of 25-29 October 2021 in Dubai, at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) (www.iac2021.org). We will be notified of its selection outcome following the IAF Spring Meetings in March 2021. The Next Generation Plenary Steering Committee is committed to the success of our proposed panels

and will therefore find an appropriate venue for this panel during IAC2021 in the event its plenary application process is unsuccessful.

The participants will engage in a panel discussion with other students and young professionals from around the world and interact with the audience while discussing their efforts around social responsibility in space. The plenary will be moderated in a format similar to a talk show, interweaving clips from the panellists' audition videos with questions and comments from the moderator, other panellists, and the audience. The video clips will be used to enhance the audience's understanding of the ideas of the plenary participants. This is an exciting opportunity that you do not want to miss!

This sounds great! What do I need to do to participate?

Panelists will be selected via a global competitive process to identify the best candidates and showcase the diversity of successful efforts in the area of social responsibility in space. Their contributions to the space community will be assessed by a group of subject matter experts.

QUALIFICATION:

Social responsibility is necessary to ensure space remains open and accessible to all, while providing benefits to society as a whole. The Next Generation of space professionals are leading the way in these initiatives.

The plenary serves to:

- Highlight significant contributions from the next generation of students and space professionals who participate in activities related to social responsibility in space.
- Showcase unique ways in which students and young professionals have leveraged space technologies to drive socially responsible practices.

Panelists will be selected who demonstrate outstanding existing contributions to one or more of the following categories:

- Researching/studying the impact of social responsibility practices in space, or lack thereof.
- Utilizing space technologies in their current work or studies geared towards more socially responsible practices.
- Demonstrating/advocating to decision-makers how space can be used to promote more ethical and sustainable policies for the space sector in their country or region.

To apply, you must be a student or young professional, aged from 21 to 35 years old on 1st January 2021.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

ROUND ONE: 15 Seconds of Fame!

Create a 15-second video telling us very briefly the subject of the project you are working on that you would speak about on the panel, and why you should be selected to address the IAC. The video must be posted on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). You must be on screen and be speaking for the full 15 seconds. We

will only watch/listen for 15 seconds, so be sure to not exceed 15 seconds! In addition to uploading your video, you must complete the Plenary Application by the deadline by filling out [this form](#).

Deadline for Round 1 submissions: By 8 January 2021 (11:59 pm GMT)

VIDEO DETAILS:

Please record your video in a high-quality audio and video format. If you are selected as a panelist, segments of your videos will be used during the plenary and leading up to it to promote the plenary. Evaluators are looking for videos that are aligned with the theme of this plenary and that incite curiosity and interest among the viewer. Please limit special effects and no music. The video is about you, not your video editing skills. Please do not use copyrighted video, images, or music.

ROUND TWO: Three Minutes!

We will select the Round Two subset of candidates from the above and notify all entrants by **1 February 2021**. Specific details of Round Two requirements will be sent to the candidates in the notification. Selected candidates will be asked to create and post a three-minute video on a specified YouTube site by **19 February 2021** (11:59 pm GMT).

FINAL SELECTION:

We will select the finalists from these entries based on their impact, efficacy of messages, and relevance to the plenary topics; we also take into consideration the IAF's 3G diversity criteria when selecting the finalists. We will be looking for concrete descriptions of how you are actively engaged with social responsibility in space, and why this area is vital to your work or studies.

The IAF will make the final selection of plenaries for the IAC in Dubai the week of 22 March 2021 and will notify the finalists of its decision by **1 April 2021**.

Who Will Sponsor Me to Travel to Dubai, UAE?

Plenary participants will be responsible for finding their own sponsor or sponsors for their travel to and accommodations during the IAC. In addition to the obvious sources of sponsorship – yourself and your family, employer or school, and industry contacts – we want to share with you some great programs for students and young professionals that occur in conjunction with the 2021 Dubai IAC. The following are all distinct programs related to the IAC but are not directly related to this plenary opportunity.

- IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Programme. See <http://www.iaf-grant-programme.org/>
- Space Generation Advisory Committee(SGAC) offers a number of travel scholarship opportunities for students and young professionals to attend the Space Generation Congress (SGC) and International Astronautical Congress. The SGC event is held prior to the IAC in Dubai. Visit spacegeneration.org for more information.
- Space agency education programmes. Students in Europe, Japan, Canada and the United States are encouraged to contact ESA, JAXA, CSA and NASA respectively to apply to their space agencies' student programmes at the IAC in Dubai, UAE.

- The Future Space Leaders Foundation offers grants to students and young professionals in the United States. More information can be found at <http://www.futurespaceleaders.org/about.html>.
- Be innovative! Previous Next Generation Plenary panellists have been successful in raising funding through other means such as crowd funding and local community organizations.

For questions, contact nextgenplenary.iaf@gmail.com