



United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Space4Youth: Integrating Youth Perspectives into the Space Sector

Context and Objectives:

Space has always been a source of wonder and inspiration for children to look to the stars. As young people pursue STEM education and careers and benefit from space technologies, it is vital that they have a voice in the future of humanity's exploration of space.

Space4Youth empowers future generations, especially from developing countries, to engage in global space governance and benefit from STEM education. UNOOSA will convene a series of international events to create a toolkit to scale successful examples of national space and STEM curricula and showcase how space can be harnessed for connectivity. Unique partnerships with the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the UN, Space Generation Advisory Council, and organisations like Endurosat or Kyutech will also provide hands-on education. This proposal will also recognise their contribution to substantive and inter-generational discussions in the development of global space governance.

The project will consist of two tracks:

1. **Youth Perspectives into Space Policy and Governance**, which will see the development of a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Youth Perspectives in the Space Sector' and see youth voices contribute to the work of COPUOS and in preparation of UNISPACE IV in 2027. This track can be closely coordinated with Space Generation Advisory Council.
2. **Science and Technology**, which leverages UNOOSA's role as a capacity-builder, which builds on:
 - a. NASA Essay Competition and Trip to Space Camp;
 - b. the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the UN,
 - c. UNOOSA/Japan partnership providing Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)" Fellowship Programme;
 - d. a prospective partnership with Endurosat, whereby 12-20 scholarships could be offered to 16-26 year olds from developing countries to learn how to build satellites.

A project team would be established to build resilience within UNOOSA to carry-out these activities.

Deliverables and Outcomes of the Project

Objective 1: Development of a comprehensive toolkit for the Space4Youth initiative.

- Creation and dissemination of a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Youth Perspectives in the Space Sector, by providing practical guidance for: integrating youth voices into policy-making; how space can be an enabler of education (connectivity in remote areas) and best practices in developing national curricula in STEM and space.

Objective 2: Expanded access to STEM education and capacity-building opportunities.

- Uptake of scholarships and fellowships, including through a prospective Endurosat partnership, providing training to 16-26-year-olds in developing satellites.
- Increased participation in the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations (in Brazil/Mexico, Jordan, Morocco, China, India and Nigeria).
- Participation in the likes of the NASA Essay Competition and similar initiatives, inspiring youth to pursue careers in space science.

Objective 3: Strengthened capabilities of emerging spacefaring nations.

- Empowerment of nations to align their space policies with international standards through legal and policy assistance, workshops, and targeted mentoring.

Objective 4: Promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

- Identification of regional champions to roll-out of the toolkit and implement at the national level.
- Youth engagement in the lead-up to, and at, UNISPACE IV.

Project Timelines

2025:

- September/ October Kick-off discussions with relevant stakeholders and national experts.
- Launch the partnership with Endurosat to offer scholarships for satellite-building training.
- June, Endurosat Space Challenger Competition for 5 participants from developing countries.
- UNOOSA/Japan partnership providing Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)" Fellowship Programme.

2026

- June/July - Host international expert meeting in Vienna on the margins of COPUOS, or alongside a SGAC global event, to develop the toolkit.
- June, Endurosat Space Challenger Competition for participants from developing countries.
- Facilitate SGAC/UN meetings on youth perspectives towards UNISPACE IV and receive further inputs towards the development of the toolkit. (margins of COPUOS or at the Space Generation Congress in Antalya, Türkiye).

2027:

- Finalize and launch the toolkit at UNISPACE IV.
- Host regional conferences to ensure effective implementation and dissemination of the toolkit.
- June, Endurosat Space Challenger Competition for participants from developing countries.
- Expand partnerships and programs, including additional scholarship opportunities and mentorship initiatives.

Project Budget

The estimated budget for the project over three years is approximately USD 356,00 per year over three years. This budget includes:

- **Personnel Costs:** Approximately USD 225,000 for a project team per year, including programme manager and administrative staff.
- **Non-Personnel Cost (toolkit development):** Around USD 5,000 per year for toolkit development, translation, and outreach materials.
- **Implementation of activities (participant travel, venue costs and other peripherals):** An estimated USD 50,000 per year for travel, organizing expert events and capacity-building activities, and travel for participants from UNOOSA and developing countries.
- **UN Programme Support Costs (13%):** Approximately USD 40,000 per year.