



## Outcomes – UN/Brazil/UAE Space for Women Expert Meeting: Initiatives, challenges and opportunities for women in space

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# The S4W Meeting - 2021

- 21-22 of October 2021, in Dubai (EXPO Dubai);
- Organised, on the Brazilian side, by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), and on the United Arab Emirates side, by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, and UNOOSA;
- The event brought together sixty (60) experts from more than twenty (20) countries;
- The main focus of the meeting was to discuss efforts to ensure that the benefits of space reaches women and girls, as well as that they have an equal and active role in the areas of space science, technology, innovation and exploration;
- Our main expectation was not only to raise awareness on the theme, but also to promote further concrete policies and actions towards gender equality and women empowerment in the areas of space science, technology, innovation, and exploration, in Brazil and abroad;
- Report on the United Nations/Brazil/United Arab Emirates Space for Women Expert Meeting: Initiatives, challenges and opportunities for women in space (Report A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.19).



## Observations and recommendations - Report A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.19

32. Creation of a WG with COPUOS to discuss matters of inclusivity and diversity.

33. UNOOSA should facilitate collaboration with different gender empowerment entities and IOs to benefit from expertise on women's rights and gender representation. A specific focus should be on the awareness of STEM professions in rural and developing areas in order to incubate new talents and empower women with limited access to these careers.

34. Usage and creation of different online, social media and open source tools should be evaluated and explored in order to allow for awareness raising on employment opportunities in the space sector, provision of background information and educational sources and individual stories as well as platforms for connection and direct engagement. To consider the creation of formal recognition for notable achievements by women in the space sector.

35. Creation, by UNOOSA, of a scholarship programme for women wishing to pursue professional careers in the space sector as well as generate extra budgetary funds to provide entrepreneurial, incubation and seed funding for female entrepreneurs.

36. Development of space education curricula to provide a resource for educators wishing to promote STEM careers and the opportunities in the space sector. Additionally, the office itself could consider the creation of master's classes to build skills in the space sector.

37. Consider the development of dedicated programmes and courses for the mentees as well as mentors participating in the S4W mentorship programme. Furthermore, a professional recognition for the participation in the programme – as mentor or mentee – should be considered

38- Need of a greater gender awareness as a main target for a "Space for Women" Project and therefore recommended the equal inclusion of women and men and evidence-based awareness raising as well as the generation and exchange of data on gender equality issues.

39. Evidence-based awareness raising, and collection of critical data was identified as crucial and an important prerequisite to raise awareness especially among governments.

40. To initiate a stock-taking exercise and the collection of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex and to make it available and accessible through the creation of an online platform. This online tool could also support voluntary data sharing between nations on all aspects of gender empowerment in the space sector.

41. The importance of a multidisciplinary approach through multi-stakeholder engagement was recommended for a dedicated project in order to be able to share information, identify cross-sectorial needs as well as value user needs and to follow a bottom-up approach.

42. Based on the observation that the motivation to pursue a STEM career or in the space sector comes from within social clusters, peers and especially from within families, the participants to the expert meeting stressed the need to address social and cultural norms. Therefore, a "Space for Women" Project should as well focus on greater awareness raising about the benefits of STEM fields and opportunities within the space sector among the general public as well as create regional peer networks to facilitate outreach and awareness raising.

43. To show real-world purpose of STEM education as well as to promote hands-on training and underlined that the space field would provide a necessary motivating area in order to demystify science and make it accessible, fun and interesting. Furthermore, the need to train the-trainers and to specifically educate and address teachers was highlighted in that regard.

44. The role of the private sector in recruiting, retaining, and promoting women in Space, including supporting women owned enterprise through incubators and supply chains, was highlighted as an important area of intervention.

# S4W: the way forward

- More institutionalised initiatives and policies, in opposition to occasional ones;
- Establishment of a Working Group to analyze and build proposals of actions and initiatives whose aim is to meet, in a medium/long run, the recommendations made in the Report A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.19;
- Members: MCTI - Adriana Cursino Thomé (Technologist, International Affairs Office); AEB - Renata Corrêa Ribeiro, Nádia Bandeira Sacenco Kornijezuk and Simonny Valéria Soares (Analysts in C&T, International Cooperation Office);
- 2 months work;
- 8 pages report;
- References;
- Written document.





## Actions and initiatives for the Brazilian space sector proposed by the working group

1. Annual update of female participation in the workforce and academia, in total and by areas of training/activity for the sector (38,39,40,41);
2. Promotion of awareness-raising activities in institutions related to space (government, industry, academia), including topics such as harassment, inclusion, prejudice, gender equality, glass ceiling, access to positions of power, among others (34,38,41);
3. Promotion of activities for the dissemination of women who work in the space sector in Brazil, such as websites, media, in-person and online events, among others (34,41);
4. Promotion of mentoring programs (mentor/mentee), either online and/or in person (37);
5. Promotion of activities to attract and train children, adolescents and university students (33,36,43);
6. Encourage the development of space technologies and applications for the benefit of women and girls (32,43);
7. Encourage the development of technologies and infrastructure that aim at the better insertion of women in space exploration (32, 38, 41);
8. Award scholarships (study and work) for women in the sector (33,35,44,43);
9. Promotion of funding programs for women who are starting an entrepreneurial activity in the sector (35,44);
10. Establishment of public policies to encourage the insertion of women in the space sector (33);
11. Creation of a standing committee to look after the interests of women in the sector (32,42).

*"Too often the great decisions are originated and given form in bodies made up wholly of men, or so completely dominated by them that whatever of special value women have to offer is shunted aside without expression".  
(Eleanor Roosevelt)*

Thanks for your  
attention!

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