



# NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL



USERS' ADVISORY GROUP

AN INTRODUCTION

March 2024

# WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL (NSpC)?

- The National Space Council (NSpC) is the White House policy council responsible for ensuring the U.S. capitalizes on the rich opportunities presented by our nation's space activities
- Under the leadership of its chair, the Vice President, the NSpC advises and assists the President on the development and implementation of space policy and strategy and is comprised of Cabinet-level Secretaries and other senior executive branch officials
- The NSpC synchronizes the nation's civil, commercial, and national security space activities to advance the broader priorities of the Administration
- The Council previously existed from 1958-73 and 1989-93
- Reestablished on 6/30/2017 by Executive Order 13803, and amended on 2/13/20 by Executive Order 13906
- Reauthorized on 12/1/21 by Executive Order 14056
- The NSpC is aided by a staff from the Executive Office of the President led by a civilian Executive Secretary

# SPACE COUNCIL MTGS CHAIRED BY VICE PRESIDENT

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held 10/5/2017 at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy near Washington, DC
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held 2/21/2018 at Space Station Processing Facility in Cape Canaveral, FL
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held 6/18/2018 at White House in Washington, DC
- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held 10/23/2018 at National War College near Washington, DC
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held 3/26/2019 at U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL
- 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held 8/20/2019 at Udvar-Hazy Center near Washington, DC
- 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held 5/19/2020 at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting held 12/9/2020 at Apollo/Saturn V Center at KSC Visitor Complex, Cape Canaveral, FL
- 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held 12/1/2021 at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC
- 10<sup>th</sup> meeting held 9/9/2022 at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX
- 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held 12/20/2023 in Washington, DC

# SUMMARY OF NSpC ACTIVITIES TO DATE

## Policy & Recommendations (2017-2021)

- **Space Policy Directives (SPDs) issued:**
  - SPD-1 (12/11/2017): Calls for U.S.-led integrated program with commercial partners to return humans to the Moon with missions to Mars and beyond to follow
  - SPD-2 (5/24/2018): Calls for regulatory reform for commercial launch and reentry, commercial remote sensing, and spectrum use
  - SPD-3 (6/18/2018): Directs the development of a national space traffic management policy to preserve the space environment for future use
  - SPD-4 (2/19/2019): Establishes U.S. Space Force as a sixth military department, subordinate to the Air Force
  - SPD-5 (9/04/2020): Establishes cybersecurity principles for space systems
  - SPD-6 (12/16/2020): National Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion
  - SPD-7 (1/15/2021): Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Policy
- **Directive to return U.S. astronauts to the surface of the Moon by 2024, establish a sustainable presence, and prepare for Mars issued in March 2019**
- **Additional Recommendations on low Earth orbit, lunar surface, Mars, international cooperation, and space nuclear power issued in August 2019**

# WHAT IS THE USERS' ADVISORY GROUP (UAG)?

- The Users' Advisory Group (UAG) is a Federal Advisory Committee governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
- Intended to be industry and other non-Federal stakeholders' voice to the NSpC
- Tasked with advising the NSpC with any and all space policy issues relevant to these stakeholders
- Charter last renewed on November 29, 2023, and runs for two years unless renewed. Reaffirmed the six subcommittees established on December 1, 2021:
  - Exploration & Discovery
  - Economic Development & Industrial Base
  - Climate & Societal Benefits
  - STEM Education, Diversity & Inclusion
  - Data & Emerging Technology
  - National Security
- On September 8, 2022, General Lester L. Lyles (USAF, ret.) appointed Chair
- On December 16, 2022, Vice President Kamala Harris, Chair of the NSpC, announced the individuals selected to serve on the UAG
- February 23, 2023: UAG public meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> since 2017
- December 1, 2023: UAG public meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> since 2017

# USERS' ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER:

## Scope

- **Scope:** Provide advice and recommendations to the NSpC on matters related to space policy and strategy, including Government policies, laws, regulations, treaties, international instruments, programs, and practices across the civil, commercial, and national security space sectors
- **Function:** Ensure that the interests of industry and other non-Federal entities involved in space activities, in particular commercial entities, are adequately represented in the NSpC
- **The UAG shall provide advice and recommendations on matters including, but not limited to:**
  - Strengthening U.S. leadership in space exploration
  - Advancing norms of responsible behavior in space
  - Safeguarding national security
  - Emphasizing cyber security
  - Addressing climate change and improving life on Earth
  - Promoting a globally competitive commercial space sector and regional economic development
  - Encouraging international cooperation
  - Removing systematic barriers and advancing equity for traditionally underserved communities
  - Building diverse space workforce for the future
  - Promoting science, technology, engineering, and math opportunities for underserved students and professionals



## FOCUS AREAS: Exploration and Discovery Subcommittee

- Evaluation of the Artemis architecture, specifically its implications for commercial space and the lunar economy
- Evaluation of the maximum possible inclusion of science in defining the Artemis architecture and mission planning
- Assess & provide advice on the implementation strategy of a commercial Low Earth Orbit (LEO) regulatory authority



## FOCUS AREAS:

### Economic Development & Industrial Base Subcommittee

- Assessment of the space enterprise to ensure a broad and diverse outreach to the full capacity of the U.S. industrial base, including small businesses
- Evaluation of government-industry partnership models
- Assessment of the space supply chain for opportunities and possible issues
- Assessment of the extent of international partnerships and collaborations





## FOCUS AREAS: Climate & Societal Benefits Subcommittee

- Unleashing the full potential of Earth observation - improving government cooperation with the commercial sector
- Pursuing a climate-smart agriculture - enhanced by space-based observations and technologies

## FOCUS AREAS:

### Data & Emerging Technology Subcommittee

- Support development of Space Traffic Management (STM) in the Dept. of Commerce, including assessment of technical, international collaboration, and regulatory needs
- Assess & leverage related studies by other organizations (e.g., Dept. of Defense / Defense Science Board, National Academy of Engineering, and Non-Governmental Organizations)

## FOCUS AREAS: STEM, Education, and D&I Subcommittee

- Support the "Inspire, Prepare, Employ" strategy
- Build linkages with U.S. Government agencies/departments and others for complementary programs
- Promote & refine the role of commercial space integration & the role of "Future G" as both enablers and beneficiaries of STEM D&I workforce development effort
- Acknowledge and promote that the space industry is more than STEM - e.g., a "skilled technical workforce"

## FOCUS AREAS: National Security Subcommittee

- Assess planned U.S. Space Force integration of commercial capabilities to support/augment/assume National Security missions and needs.
- Examine opportunities for greater information sharing , partnerships, and collaboration amongst the various space sectors (National Security, civil, commercial, and private).
- Examine international collaborations & partnerships

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **UAG Website (hosted by NASA):**  
<https://www.nasa.gov/usersadvisorygroup/>

- **To Provide Feedback:**

To submit a question, comment, or idea to the UAG, please use the contact email below.

Please note: Anything sent to this email account may be subject to future public release under applicable federal laws and regulations. As such, please do not send information or documents that are classified, proprietary, trade secrets, contain personally sensitive information, or are otherwise inappropriate for public release.

[contact@spacecounciluag.org](mailto:contact@spacecounciluag.org)

