



**Interested? Organise a conference and encourage the voice of youth!**

### **MILSET**

The International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science & Technology (MILSET) is a non-governmental, non-profit and politically independent youth organization that aims to develop scientific culture among young people through high quality science, technology, engineering, mathematics and arts (STEAM) programs, including science fairs, youth congresses, science camps, science contests and experimental activities, as well as training programs, workshops and knowledge transfer between organisations. Founded in 1987, MILSET has grown to over 130 organisations in 90 countries focused on informal and/or extra-curricular STEAM education. MILSET has six regional offices: Africa, Amlat (Latin America), Asia, Europe, Noram (North America), and Vostok.

### **What is YCC?**

MILSET Young Citizens Conferences (YCC) are dedicated to the views and concerns of youth regarding the social impact of science and technology on the modern world, gathering their voices from every part of the globe and encouraging them to actively enter the discussion.

The exponential growth of new technologies and scientific knowledge has generated new and exciting possibilities; however, this has also raised new ethical, social and ecological issues. We believe that the open-mindedness of young scientists combined with their sense of social responsibility can yield important contributions to the dialogue. The primary goals of these conferences are achieved through a three-step methodology: Concerns, Discussion and Actions.

### **YCC goals**

- Create a space where youth can express their views on the topic;
- Engage youth in discussion and debate concerning their future;
- Enable youth to discover their personal responsibilities;
- Encourage youth to express their concerns about the topic through participation in an open global discussion;
- Present the voice of youth through short video presentations which will be posted on the MILSET website and other internet platforms.





### How to organise them?

NGO's, universities, schools, or any group of youth can organise a YCC and then submit their conclusions to [ycc@milset.org](mailto:ycc@milset.org).

MILSET defines youth as people between 13 and 25 years of age.

We advise you to follow the YCC methodology to integrate the results with others from around the world. Furthermore, it is important to follow carefully the instructions for submitting results for your contribution to be accepted.

### What are the requirements?

To keep the conference discussions as efficient and fruitful as possible we encourage you to follow this three-part methodology:

**Concerns:** Introduce participants to the issue. Start by asking them thought-provoking questions about the topic and their recent related observations and experiences. What changes have they noticed? Which changes are having the greatest impact on society? What could be the social consequences of those changes in the near future? Participants can be also shown short videos on the topic, or guest speakers can present various opinions.

**Discussion:** In small groups, participants discuss ideas, issues and concerns related to the topic from the first part of the conference or from their own experience. Encourage them to identify possible future benefits and risks for each concern.

**Actions:** Participants explore and list possible actions to solve or reduce the concerns they identified. What should be done to reduce the risks and apply the benefits in the best possible way? Who should be responsible for accomplishing these actions? What can participants do to have an impact – at home, at school, in their community, and in the world? How should we behave in our everyday life? As teams, participants prepare short presentations or videos to communicate the results of their discussion and their recommendations.





### 2020 Topic: Our Future in Space

Today more and more people are wondering if we should keep spending so much money exploring space without any real impact on humanity's future. With the present-day knowledge, we can't comfortably talk about reaching other star systems. At the same time, we have so many problems on Earth - climate changes, nuclear weapon and more – that we need to pay attention to and invest resources on scientific research.

It is now known that the space leading states are ready to put less and less funds to the space exploration. Does it mean that we have no future in space? Have we reached the limit of human abilities to make a scientific breakthrough, or the limit of human willing to spend money on programs that won't bring profit?

On the other hand, other grounds are yet to be developed such as space tourism or space technologies development. In this regard, Elon Musk is contributing to the latter by investing his own resources.

Talking about benefits of space exploration, we are witnessing the growth of interest in science and technology among young people, thanks to the new space expedition and space related discoveries. We can't ignore that exploration brings new technologies that might help us solving some global or everyday problems.

#### Here are some questions to think about for further proposals:

**Moon, Mars and planets of the solar system:** Do you think it is a good idea to colonize them? What would be the positive and negative outcomes of doing so?

**Space Tourism:** What are the pros and cons of space tourism development? Will mass space tourism bring new life to the space industry? Could it be the source of environmental problems?

**Space Debris:** Do you think that space debris is a serious problem now? Do you think it could become a serious problem in the future? What do you propose to reduce it?

**New Materials:** Can new planets become source of new minerals or source of new elements and materials? And if so, what should be done to reach this goal? Do you think it makes sense to bring resources from outer space, from the economic point view?

**International collaboration:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of international collaboration in space exploration? Could it set guidelines for collaboration on Earth?





Young Citizens Conferences on  
**Our future in Space** 2020 - 2021



**Let's share your ideas with the world!**

As a YCC organiser sum-up the results of the discussion and fill in the report form.

Make short videos of participants during the activity, and send the best one to [ycc@milset.org](mailto:ycc@milset.org), which will be posted on the MILSET website and MILSET Facebook.

If you are going to send a video, please consider the following information:

- The Video Format should be MP4 from 24 to 29fps
- The resolution should be 1080 x 1080 px
- It must be short and include the topic or subtopic, the discussion and the actions to be taken

