



SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

SGAC Statement at the
66th Annual Session of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item 11

June 6th, 2023

Presented by: Antonino Salmeri, SGAC Co-Chair



Thank you, Honourable Chair. The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide the views of the youth on space and climate change.

We would like to start by expressing our sincere appreciation for the excellent efforts of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs on space for climate action, including a very insightful Symposium co-organised with the Austrian Government in September 2022. On a broader UN level, In September 2021, the Secretary-General released “Our Common Agenda”, an insightful document outlining the priorities to be tackled during the next 5 years. Climate action and youth engagement are at the top of this list.

Honourable Chair, every young person knows that the future of the planet is also our own future. Our planet is heating up and we must all work together to preserve our future. It is time for us to take action.

As representative of the space youth, we believe that the space community should be at the forefront of the fight against climate change. Prompted by the release of Our Common Agenda, SGAC, in December 2021, established a policy division on Space for Climate Action. Over the course of 2022, this diverse group of young professionals from our Policy & Advocacy Platform worked hard to collect the views and proposals of the space generation on how space could, and should, contribute to the fight against climate change.

Distinguished Delegates, after a year of work we are pleased to announce the release of a comprehensive Report titled “Saving Our Future on Earth Through Our Presence in Space”, which outlines the official policy position of the Space Generation Advocacy Council on the role of space for climate



action, on behalf of all space youth.

The SGAC Climate Report outlines 31 practical recommendations emphasising the need for a decisive approach to increase the sustainability of the space industry as a way to ensure a better future for all humankind. The recommendations include decoupling the space and defence sectors, streamlining environmental impact assessments into current and future missions, and using Venus and Mars as viable case studies for understanding our climate. These recommendations target various stakeholders across the scientific community, academia, governments and policymakers, as well as commercial actors.

To support further consideration of the young generation's view on space and climate change, we have submitted our Climate Report as Conference Room Paper nr. 13.

Since its publication, SGAC has been extensively advocating the Climate Report at the international level. Last year, we presented the Report at the ASCEND Conference organised by the International Academy of Astronautics. Together with the International Astronautical Federation, in May we also organised a panel discussion during the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLOC).

In conclusion, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide the views of the young generation on the role of space for climate action, and stand ready to support the activities of this Honourable Committee in any manner appropriate. We encourage all delegations to read the SGAC Climate Report and share it with relevant stakeholders in your own jurisdictions, and remain ready to answer your questions. Thank you very much for your kind attention.