



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

**SGAC Statement at the
65th Annual Session of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**June 3rd, 2022
Agenda Item 5**

Presented by: Davide Petrillo, SGAC Executive Director

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to join the other delegations in thanking the Office of Outer Space Affairs, in particular, Mr Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat, in the preparation of the 65th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We would also like to express our gratitude to the services of the Office's recently departed Director, Ms Simonetta Di Pippo, to whom we wish the best of luck in her future endeavours. It is my pleasure to address you and briefly update the Committee on the recent and current activities of the Space Generation Advisory Council.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, or SGAC, is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation and network which aims to represent university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, its Member States, national space agencies, industry, and academia. The focus of SGAC is to provide pragmatic space policy advice to policymakers based on the views of students and young professionals aged 18 to 35, from all over the world. SGAC was established at the UNISPACE III Conference organised by this Committee in 1996, and since then SGAC has continued to cement its position as the largest and most prominent international network of students and young professionals in the space sector. This year, SGAC celebrated having more than 20,000 members and alumni from across 165 countries.

Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates, 2022 is already becoming an important year for SGAC. We are grateful for the outstanding work of our former Chair, Harriet Brettle. Thanks to her contribution, supported by the rest of the SGAC leadership, our organisation has elevated to new horizons and inspired the international space community to be more inclusive, aim higher, explore further and contribute to the progress of humanity. As Harriet's term finished on March 31st 2022, SGAC elected a new Co-Chair, Hamza Hameed, who is present in the room today, and who will now support Anthony Yuen as he moved to become SGAC's next Chair on April 1st 2022.

During the first half of the year, SGAC hosted the SGx 2022 that took place on March 21st, in Washington, DC in conjunction with SATELLITE 2022. With a new event format, SGx2022 featured three back-to-back speakers sharing their experiences from various industries, followed by a brief panel. This year's themed sessions included Policy and Government, Science and Technology, Human Spaceflight, and Institutional Culture. With more than 300 registered delegates, SGx2022 was the most successful SGx in the history

of SGAC. We would like to thank the SGx organising team, SATELLITE 2022, Future Space Leaders Foundation, and the SGx sponsor organisations for making this event possible.

Additionally, SGAC was also proud to host the 10th annual Space Generation Fusion Forum in conjunction with the 37th Space Symposium, in Colorado Springs, USA. With this, SGAC brought together a total of 120 delegates, both in-person and online from around the world. The event featured speakers from industry, academia, and government as well as a wealth of networking and career development opportunities for both in-person and virtual participants. Highlights included a Heads of Agency panel chaired by the Secretary of the National Space Council and featuring six Heads of Agencies from NASA, European Space Agency, UK Space Agency, Canadian Space Agency, DLR and Australian Space Agency. We would like to thank the Space Foundation and all our sponsors for their support in making this event possible.

Furthermore, in 2022, SGAC hosted the 7th South American Space Generation Workshop (SA-SGW), a one-day hybrid workshop, which brought together students, young professionals, industry experts and government stakeholders from across Latin America. This event provided an unparalleled opportunity for the future leaders of South America's space sector to proactively establish strong relationships, exchange ideas and knowledge, and collaborate on novel ways in which space technology can be utilised for the benefit of the region. The event was held on the 15th of May 2022 in Quito, Ecuador in conjunction with the IAF's Global Conference on Space for Emerging Countries.

Honourable Chairs and Distinguished Delegates, this year, SGAC was also proud to have hosted, in collaboration with the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL), our first Model United Nations COPUOS in May 2022. Despite only four days to deliberate on the challenging topic relating to Space Resources Utilisation, the 29 delegates negotiated and tabled six draft resolutions, of which two were adopted. A remarkable consensus was achieved on the definition of harmful contamination, a global space traffic management regime and establishing a legal framework on sustainability based on the 2019 Long-term Sustainability Guidelines.

Our organisation is now working hard to plan the 20th Space Generation Congress (SGC) in Paris, this September, which will be held just prior to the 72nd International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The event is planned in a fully in-person format, with 150 delegates, amongst which 75 will be scholarship winners. This offers the next generation of space sector leaders from government, industry, and academia the opportunity to come together to exchange views on current, pressing space topics via 6 interactive

working groups. SGAC is keenly looking forward to the outcome of this event, as it will be presented to you, distinguished delegates, during the next UNCOPUOS meetings.

Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates, this year, SGAC was also very proud to announce the establishment of the Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP). The purpose of the Platform is to develop, advocate and implement united space policy positions on behalf of the youth, as well as to consolidate and disseminate space policy activities conducted within SGAC. This year, we will develop our united policy position on the role of space in the fight against climate change. In synergy with the 2022 theme of the World Space Week, we will dedicate our first policy overview to showcase the youth's contributions to space sustainability.

Finally, the SGAC Diversity and Gender Equality Project Group, is organising its very first hackathon in 2022 under the general theme: "How can space technology and know-how help make a leap forward towards gender equality on Earth?". The hackathon will be organised together with the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) in conjunction with the UN/Republic of Korea Space for Women Expert Meeting.

In summary, Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, SGAC has shown positive growth over the year, which would not have been possible without the tireless effort of our volunteers, as well as the support of our international partners and sponsors, including Lockheed Martin, NASA, Space Foundation, Northrop Grumman, Secure World Foundation, the European Space Agency, the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the French Space Agency (CNES), the UK Space Agency, ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

I would like to stress that being a Permanent Observer at the 65th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is invaluable to SGAC; the organisation is honoured to be able to report to you, distinguished delegates.

I thank this Committee and the distinguished delegates for their time and attention.

Thank you, Mr Chair.