

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT

Agenda Item 15: Space Exploration and Innovation

Mister Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour for the Moon Village Association, as an Observer member to address, virtually, this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mister Chair, as the MVA Delegation is taking the floor for the first time, we would like to congratulate you as Chair of the COPUOS.

MVA is confident that, under your wise leadership, this session will reach fruitful results, even if in hybrid form. My delegation would also like to extend its gratitude to the acting Director of UNOOSA, Mr Niklas Hedman and his team for the excellent operation of this meeting.

MVA, in 2021, has carried out many activities and I shall summarize just a few of them, more can be seen on the website: www.moonvillageassociation.org. A technical presentation by MVA was held on April 6th to describe in more detail some of these activities.

I am pleased to report that MVA has been admitted in 2021 to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, as it is expected by all observers.

In 2022, More than 6 missions, from private and government stakeholders, are going to be launched to orbit or land on the Moon. The current lack of coordination mechanisms for lunar activities presents challenges to future missions and could lead to unintentional harmful interference, especially in the light of the increased global interest in specific areas like the lunar south pole. The need to preserve the peaceful uses of space, together with the desire to begin a new era of sustainable space exploration, urges the consideration of approaches that promote future lunar sustainability and recommended practices for upcoming lunar activities.

In view of this, the MVA in 2021, decided to promote the development of a neutral forum for multi-stakeholder discussions on lunar exploration and utilization: The *Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities* (or GEGSLA).

The detailed content of GEGSLA status and future plan, are included in the Conference Room Paper (A/AC.105/2022/CRP.12). This paper invites delegations to initiate a conversation on lunar coordination to facilitate discussion on the GEGSLA Recommended Framework during the 66th COPUOS session in 2023.

For this reason, the MVA, together with other permanent observers (For AllMoonkind, Open Lunar Foundation, Secure World Foundation, and Space Generation Advisory Council) held the side event “Progressing Lunar Policy: a Round Table” on June 3rd, whose recording are available on the MVA website.

Moreover, MVA has launched on June 1st a global consultative survey related to the critical issues identified by GEGSLA on the Recommended Framework and Key Elements for

Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities. All Member States and Permanent Observers to COPUOS are invited to provide inputs on the questionnaire that can be found on the MVA website and as Annex to the above mentioned CRP

Mister Chair,

The Moon Village Association is pleased to take note of the proclamation by the UN General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, in December 2021, of the International Moon Day celebration (A/76/415, item 13Un) to be observed annually, on 20 July. The relevant text is hereafter: “Declares 20 July International Moon Day, to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon on 20 July 1969 as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission, taking into consideration the achievements of all States in the exploration of the Moon, and to raise public awareness about sustainable Moon exploration and utilization”.

The International Moon Day informs the public of the work undertaken in this area by numerous organizations involved in Moon activities, by COPUOS and its member States facilitated by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Because MVA has been an early advocate of the concept of the Internal Moon Day celebration, MVA is taking the initiative to support and contribute to its implementation.

The implementation of the International Moon Day will be managed by an ad-hoc Group within MVA. The International Moon Day Group is being set up with the appointment of the Chair: Dr Nasr Al-Sahhaf (Saudi Arabia), the relevant team has been already established

Details of the International Moon Day were provided on May 29 at the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) held in Washington DC and have been presented at the relevant technical presentation on June 6 at COPUOS.

The International Moon Day implementation status is contained in the Conference Room Paper (A/AC.105/2022/CRP.13)

All members and observers of this Subcommittee are invited to join this important event that will take place, for the first time, on 20 July 2022. Calls for participation, Logo competition and sponsorship are included on the IMD webpage: www.internationalmoonday.org

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi/ President Moon Village Association