



**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 4

Friday, 2 June 2023, AM

Presented by: Hamza Hameed, SGAC Chair

Thank you, Honourable Chair.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to join the other delegations in thanking the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, in particular, its Acting Director Mr Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat, in the preparation of the 66th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 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 represents 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 25,000 members and alumni from across 165 countries.

Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates, 2023 is already unfolding as an important and transformative year for SGAC. This is due to several changes in our leadership, as well as the start of new initiatives, and the further development of existing programmes. As Dr Anthony Yuen's term finished on 31 March, SGAC elected a new Co-Chair, Dr Antonino Salmeri, who previously served as the head of our Policy and Advocacy Platform, and is present in the room today. With Anthony's departure, this also meant that I assumed the position of Chair of SGAC until April 2024.

Additionally, following three years of honoured service, our Executive Director, Davide Petrillo, has left SGAC to assume a new role. As such, Valentina Luchetti, who was formerly our Chief of Staff, has now been appointed as the Acting Executive Director as we work towards identifying SGAC's next Executive Director. We are incredibly grateful to Anthony and Davide and wish them all the best in their future. Honourable delegates, quite proudly, SGAC also onboarded our third employee this year, Ms Tatiana Komorná, from Slovakia, who joined us as an Operations Officer in our office in Vienna.

During the first half of the year, SGAC hosted the SGx 2023 that took place on 13-14 March, in Washington, DC, in conjunction with SATELLITE 2023 and with the support of the Future Space Leaders Foundation. This year's themed sessions included talks from space sector leaders across government, academia, and private industry, covering subjects such as Space Sustainability, Human Space Exploration, International Norms of Behavior, and Deep Space Exploration. Additionally, two new concepts were implemented this year: a Young Professional and Student Lightning Talks session and a Job Fair located on the exhibit hall floor. With more than 300 registered delegates, SGx2023 was for the second year in a row the most successful SGx in the history of SGAC. We would like to thank the SGx organising team, SATELLITE 2023, Future Space Leaders Foundation, and the SGx sponsor organisations for making this event possible.

Additionally, SGAC was also proud to host the 11th annual Space Generation Fusion Forum in conjunction with the 38th Space Symposium, in Colorado Springs, USA. With this, SGAC brought together a total of 115 delegates, both in-person and online representing 28 countries. The event featured speakers from industry, academia, and governments, 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 Clay Mowry, IAF President, and featuring six Heads of Agencies from NASA, European Space Agency, Canadian Space Agency, Italian Space Agency, and EUSPA. We would like to thank the Space Foundation and all our sponsors for their support in making this event possible, together with the fantastic SGAC members.

Furthermore, in 2023, SGAC hosted the 7th European Space Generation Workshop in April in Bari, Italy. This two-day workshop brought together students, young professionals, industry experts and government stakeholders from across Europe under the theme "Making sustainability the cornerstone for European space innovation and policy coordination". The workshop included more than 100 students and young professionals from all over Europe and included discussions a wide range of topics, from space tourism and private investments to the use of the latest downstream applications and human adaptation to space.

Honourable Chairs and Distinguished Delegates, our other five Regional Workshops, one in each region of our organisation are in preparation for the upcoming months and we look forward to successful events. These are presently planned for Bengaluru in India, Bogota in Colombia, San Jose in Costa Rica, Harare in Zimbabwe, among others.

Two local events have also been concluded, SG Azerbaijan in Baku, and SG France in Bordeaux. For the former, which happened on 27 April, "Women in Space: Challenges and

Opportunities” was the selected theme with the aim to highlight the importance of STEAM education for women in Azerbaijan, to discuss how the benefits of space can reach women and girls, to ensure they have an equal and active role in the areas of space science, technology, exploration and innovation. Finally, SG France was celebrated its fifth rendition and was also extremely successful. We have lots of local events coming up in the future.

This year, SGAC is working towards expanding its participation in activities in emerging space economies. As part of this, SGAC was proud to have delivered a statement at the 5th International Space Forum at Ministerial Level 2023, which took place in Panama in March 2023. Additionally, in the Asia Pacific region, at the kind invitation of the Malaysian Space Agency, we participated in the Langkawi international Space Forum last week. We have also continued our engagement with the G20, and other forums to promote the participation of young people in the space sector in all parts of the world.

Honourable delegates, our organisation is now working hard to plan the 21st Space Generation Congress (SGC) in Baku, this September, which will be held prior to the 73rd 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.

In the area of policy, which is one of SGAC’s key pillars, you will recall that SGAC established a new Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP) in 2022. Through the Platform, last December, we released a comprehensive report outlining our united policy position on the role of space in the fight against climate change. The SGAC Climate Report is available on our website and we are now working on its implementation in cooperation with our sponsors and partners. In 2023, SGAC is establishing a policy position to propose “An Intergenerational Pact for Space Sustainability” (IPASS). The IPASS Report will be the space youth’s answer to the call of the UN Secretary-General for a better future of global cooperation, addressing universal challenges of space sustainability and proposing common solutions to build a better tomorrow. The IPASS Report will be released for distribution by December 2023, and will be advocated throughout the year 2024 in connection with the UN Summit of the Future.

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, the 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, the International Astronautical Federation, Euroconsult, Planet Labs, ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

We would like to stress that being a Permanent Observer at the 66th 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 and remains available to support the Committee in any capacity necessary.

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

Thank you, Honourable Chair.