



SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS**

**SGAC Statement at the
62nd Annual Session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Agenda Item 10

21 March 2023

Presented by: Hamza Hameed, SGAC Co-Chair



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Thank you, Honourable Chair.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide the views of the next generation of space professionals on the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

We would like start by expressing our great appreciation for the excellent efforts conducted by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, and we stand ready to provide our support as relevant and appropriate. In response to the invitation circulated last year, SGAC submitted our 2021 Report on Effective and Adaptive Governance for a Lunar Ecosystem - EAGLE - for consideration by the Working Group.

Policy choices for the use of lunar resources will always be driven by both, public, and private interests. The determination of what constitute highly valuable or limited resources is likely to evolve as more data becomes available, and so will the need to regulate access and use of those resources. Pursuant to the principle of adaptive governance, SGAC believes that the implementation of the principles of international space law must be adapted in accordance with technological and economic realities, and in a manner to facilitate the growth of all the stakeholders involved in this area.

As representatives of the young generation, and as consistent with the UN treaties, we believe that no actor should be allowed to exercise permanent and exclusive control over the territories of the Moon. Therefore, all territorial-based use of the Moon should be limited in time and size, depending on the nature of the activity, and taking into account the legitimate interests of operators. We also urge the space community to extract and use lunar resources with due regard to the corresponding interests of others, and especially those from the developing world. This is particularly significant for the preservation of scarce lunar resources, to prevent present actors from using them at the expense of future generations.

Honourable Chair, based upon the ideas and values of the young generation, we respectfully present the following suggestions for consideration by the Working Group.

- First, due to the variety of resources available in space and the limited information available today, we suggest the adoption of an open and flexible concept of space resources that can be later adjusted based on scientific, technological, and economic findings.



- Second, to ensure the sustainable uses of space resources in harmony with the needs of future generations, we invite the Working Group to develop an evolving list of space resources internationally recognised as scarce, including appropriate preservation measures, as soon as scientific and technological advances allow such assessments. Following the principle of adaptive governance, we suggest updating this list on a regular basis to ensure its continued relevance.
- Third, we recommend the working group to broaden its considerations to also include items such as safety zones, registration, and heritage protection. Accordingly, we recommend taking into account topics related to the peaceful and sustainable conduct of related activities.
- Fourth and final, we suggest the working group pay special attention to the case of lunar resources, as effective regulation of space mining is inextricably related to the environment in which it is performed. The different configurations of these environments, and the different timelines associated with their utilisation underline the usefulness of a more tailored approach. Therefore, to enhance the practical impact of the working group, we recommend developing a general set of principles applicable to all space resource activities, and a subset specific to those conducted on the Moon. In our view, this would enable the working group to develop tailored solutions ensuring the peaceful, rational, safe and sustainable conduct of lunar resource activities, without prejudice to the establishment of foundational principles applicable also to asteroids or Mars.

To shed light on these and other complex questions raised in particular by the use of lunar resources, together with the Moon Dialogs Conveners, SGAC has supported the preparation of a Lunar Policy Handbook (LPH) to help stakeholders navigate the nascent realm of lunar governance. All Delegations are cordially invited to receive a copy of the this handbook during the launch event that will take place 27 March at 6:30 pm.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the opportunity of being a Permanent Observer of the Legal Subcommittee and with this, the possibility to provide the views of the young generation on the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources, and stand ready to support the activities of the Working Group in any manner considered appropriate by its Chair and Vice-Chair.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.