



COPUOS – Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
57th Session, Vienna 3-14 February 2020

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT

Madame Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for the Moon Village Association to be an Observer member with COPUOS and to be present for the first time at this session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Madame Chair, I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election. The MVA Delegation is sure that, under your wise leadership, this session will reach fruitful results. My delegation would also like to extend its gratitude to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and her staff for their hard work in organizing this meeting.

From its creation, the Association has given special importance to UN COPUOS in view of several overlapping goals between the two organizations. In 2018 and 2019 STC meetings, MVA have informed, by means of Press Releases, about its creation and its initial activities. On 20 June 2018, MVA has organized a side event, at UNISPACE+50 Conference in Vienna, to present the Association.

Today, I would like to recall the main goal of the Association that is: to create a permanent informal forum for stakeholders (including governments, industry, academia, and the public) interested in the implementation of the Moon Village. The Moon Village is a concept where peaceful cooperation in the Moon exploration and utilization is open to all countries in the world that can participate in different manners.

MVA is an NGO, founded and registered in in Vienna, in November 2017. The Moon Village Association (MVA), at the moment, comprises now more than 220 individuals from more than 40 countries around the globe, representing a diverse array of gender, age, technical, scientific, cultural and interdisciplinary fields. The MVA has also more than 23 institutional members and 6 cooperating organizations.

Details of the MVA activities can be found at: www.moonvilaggeassociation.org

A brochure of the Association is under distribution.

In December 2018, the MVA experts have elaborated and defined “The Moon Village Principles” to identify the boundaries of the Moon Village concept. These principles embody the spirit of the concept, and MVA than have started looking, worldwide, for Missions and Activities that would comply with these principles.

In this way the Moon Village starts to become a reality with lunar missions and activities taking place in 2019 and in line with these principles.

The MVA works with space and non-space organizations to generate discussions and debates at international level that lead to the formulation of plans that encourage global cooperation for the implementation of the Moon Village concept. In particular MVA has already organized 3 annual Workshops and Symposia rotating location around the globe: in 2017 in Strasbourg, in 2018 in Los Angeles and in 2019 in Tokyo/Kyoto.

MVA is also creating national and regional networks to engage civil society around the globe in its activity. To date, networks exists in many countries like, USA, China, Brazil, Australia, Kuwait, in several European countries and many others.

The MVA mission, vision, and activities are strongly tied to the, still under work Space2030 Agenda, including all four of its pillars, and all the MVA’s Working Groups have 2030 as the time horizon for their activities.

The MVA anticipates progress towards the Moon Village will advance the Pillar 1 of the Space2030 agenda with the development of space-derived economic benefits.

In particular, MVA is initiating a Project called “Moon Village – Participation of Emerging Space Countries” (MV-PESC) based on a positive outcome of an event held in 2019 in Kuwait. The goal of the project is to find concrete opportunities for non-spacefaring countries and emerging countries in the Moon Village based on the skills, scientific and industrial capacity available.

The MVA also sees the Moon Village as a platform for the advancement of societal benefits of space-related activities, and therefore aligned with the proposed Space2030 Agenda Pillar 2 “Harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges...” A session (D4.2) of the IAC20 is dedicated to this topic

Regarding the proposed Space2030 Agenda Pillar 3. *Space accessibility: access of space for all*, it is also aligned with the Moon Village Association’s focus on broadening and deepening space access and technology for the widest range of actors and stakeholders in lunar activities, including exploration, science, commerce, and cultural development. Additionally, as the MVA is inherently and fundamentally international in nature.

MVA is developing its first Payload, that is camera(s) that will be mounted on lunar lander(s) in 2021/2/3 time frame. The goal is to send live images of Earth , from the surface of the Moon, to recreate the “Overview effect” and to carry out Science experiments. This will engage general public and science community with topics, amongst others, like education, space entrepreneurship, exoplanet research and earth observation.

Regarding the proposed Pillar 4 of Space 2030 Agenda, “Building partnership and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and in global governance of outers space activities” it is a key priority for the MVA’s objectives, since it aims to create common positions on different topics of general interest using the Moon Village Principles. To this end, in December 2019, MVA for the first time has awarded to NASA’ LRO, CNSA’ Chang’E-4 and ISRO’ Chandrayan-2, the “Moon Village Principles – Mission Prizes 2010”. The Moon Village Principles – Activities Award 2010 has been given to International Space University work on “Sustainable Moon”.

Please also note that we have initiated the process to secure consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and aim to accomplish this as soon as practicable.

I take this opportunity to inform you that the first MVA technical presentation at this STC COPUOS session will be related to the results of the first Global Survey about Moon Exploration and STC will see, as first, the results. This survey has been conducted, in cooperation with the World Space Week Association.

I take this opportunity to inform you that the next International Moon Village Workshop & Symposium will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 9-12 November 2020 and this is strategic for involving African and Middle East countries in the Moon Village activities.

To present, in more detail, the opportunities for African and Middle East countries in MVA as well as the upcoming workshop in Cyprus, I would like to invite the representatives of all African and Middle East countries to join us at a meeting to be held on Thursday February 6, in the meeting room C0431 (C-building, 4th Floor) from 12,00 till 13,00.

We look forward to working with COPUOS and its subcommittees for the stepwise, equitable and sustainable development of the Moon Village, and are eager to play our part, as permanent observers at the historic, central, and pivotal activity of COPUOS in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi

President Moon Village Association