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**58th session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
19 to 30 April 2021**

**Statement by the
International Space University (ISU)**

Madame Chair, distinguished Delegates.

On behalf of the International Space University, I would like to start by offering our support to this Committee and its work in any way possible.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide a brief report on ISU's recent achievements and future plans in support of the aims of the Committee.

About the International Space University

The International Space University was founded in 1987 as an institution of higher learning, dedicated to the exploration and development of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humanity. We are registered as a non-profit organization in France and in the USA.

Looking at the "Space 2030" Agenda and its four overarching objectives, my University feels very much identified with objective 3.3 that I will quote here "Enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and technology, in particular for developing countries".

Throughout its three decades of existence, ISU has dedicated itself to international affiliations, collaboration, and open, scholarly pursuits related to outer space exploration and development using a '3Is' *international, intercultural and interdisciplinary* approach.

ISU faculty members are drawn from all sectors of the global space community, and include our Chancellor Pascale Ehrenfreund, President of the International Astronautical Federation and who has recently been appointed President-Elect of our university and to whom I will have the pleasure of handing over at the start of the next academic year in September.

I would like to acknowledge that the Director of the UNOOSA Office Ms. Di Pippo and her Office for the excellent preparations of this meeting, and also for the promising dialogue that we are having to bring space education and training to more students in

underprivileged communities and regions. Examples: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Colombia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, Central American countries to mention a few examples.

We are pleased to report on an ongoing collaboration with the Space Generation Advisory Council to provide financial aid to promising candidate students from the African continent.

I am particularly pleased to acknowledge the ISU alumni, faculty and community members present here today.

There are today more than 5.200 ISU alumni from 110 countries, who have learned to embrace the values of space exploration and development for peaceful purposes and in an inclusive and sustainable way.

This alumni community includes today top leaders in academia, space agencies, governments, and industry around the world. Current or former Heads of Space Agencies in Australia, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, and South Africa have studied at ISU in their earlier careers. The former President of China's CASC Corporation is also an ISU alumnus.

On Friday last week, some of our recent alumni will be honored to present the results of an ISU Team Project on "The role of space during pandemics" that was conducted during last year's online Interactive Space Program by a class of 86 participants from 30 nationalities in five continents.

These Team Projects are an essential component of our academic programs, where participants gain a valuable hands-on experience of collaboration in international and interdisciplinary teams to tackle a topic of interest to the world space community.

1. Master of Space Studies

The MSc in Space Studies (MSS) is ISU's main academic program, a one-year degree with an optional, additional thesis year, which runs at ISU's central campus in Strasbourg, France.

This year's Masters class comprises 35 students representing 16 nationalities and with 40% women. About half of the class of 2021 has been working on a report about "Tracking plastic pollution in the Arctic Ocean from Space".

Our yearly survey on employment of our Masters' graduates has shown that more than 80 % of recent alumni reported to have a job or continued studies (mainly PhD). Compared to previous years, a higher number of them have found employment in (New) space consultancy companies.

2. Space Studies Program

The Space Studies Program (SSP) is a nine-week professional development program that takes place at a new location each year in the June-August period.

This year, the SSP program will be offered in hybrid mode to more than 100 participants from 30 nationalities and hosted physically by the University of Granada in Spain and by ISU in Strasbourg, plus an option to attend online.

Next year, SSP22 will be hosted in Portugal by the Portuguese Space Agency and the ITS School of Engineering of the University of Lisbon.

3. Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program

This year's edition was offered online and as usual in partnership with the University of South Australia. For the first time, an ISU course has been offered simultaneously in two different time zones, allowing for participants to attend from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region.

The five weeks of study and work concluded last February with the presentation of the Team Project on "Space assets and technology for bushfire management".

4. Commercial Space Programs graduate certificate

Since 2019, ISU offers a yearly 12-credit six-week graduate certificate on Commercial Space Programs, in collaboration with the Florida Institute of Technology.

5. Other Activities and Achievements

New services in space business incubation and acceleration are now available at ISU's campus in Strasbourg with support from the French Space Agency (CNES) and the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as the Strasbourg Eurometropolis and the Grand Est Region in France.

The one-week Executive Space Course, for professionals who are new to the space sector, is now offered several times per year and in different time zones: the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific. The next ESC will be offered online from 17 to 21 May 2021 in China Standard Time.

In all its activities, the International Space University strongly supports the aims and objectives of COPUOS.

If any delegates would like to know more about ISU, they are invited to contact us. Delegations may find it useful to consult recent Team Project reports on topics linked to Space and the Sustainable Development Goals, on Space Weather, Disaster



Management or on the Long-Term Sustainability of Earth's Orbits and the Moon. These reports are publicly available on the ISU Library website.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the main activities and plans of the International Space University to this Committee.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Juan de Dalmau
President
International Space University
www.isunet.edu
juan.dedalmau@isunet.edu