

59th STSC UN

Vienna 7-18 February 2022

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT, Agenda item4

On February 14

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour for the Moon Village Association, as an Observer member with COPUOS to address, virtually, this session of Science and Technical Sub-Committee.

Mr. Chair, as the MVA Delegation is taking the floor for the first time, we would like to congratulate you as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

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 Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and her staff for their hard work in organizing this meeting.

MVA, in 2021, has carried out many activities and I shall summarize just few of them, more can be seen on the website: www.moonvillageassociation.org. A technical presentation by MVA has been held on February 14 to describe in more detail some 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 for all observers.

In 2022, More than 10 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 detail content of GEGSLA status and future plan, are included in the Conference Room Paper AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.17. In this paper is suggested to create, by the 66th COPUOS meeting in 2023, an agenda item related to Lunar Governance.

MVA to foster the involvement of the new generation in the Moon Village activities, organized, in July 2021, the workshop “Towards the Lunar Generation” and a new project related to this topic has been created.

The Participation of Emerging Space Countries (PESC) project has continued in 2021 with the involvement of Kuwait, Jordan, Nepal, Mongolia, Egypt, Kenya, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, Mauritius. They all have provided roadmaps identifying specific projects focused on capacity building for lunar activities.

Mr. 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 organize its implementation.

MVA launched the International Moon Day celebration with a Press Conference held, in cooperation with the Cyprus Space Exploration Organization (CSEO) and participation of UNOOSA, on December 14 2021.

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) and the Executive Secretary Ms. Ruvimbo Samanga (Zimbabwe)

Details of the International Moon Day implementation status are contained in the Conference Room Paper AC.105/C.1/2021/CRP.16.

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.

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi/ President Moon Village Association