



SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

SGAC Statement at the
59th Annual Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

16 February 2022

Presented by: Harriet Brettle, SGAC Chair



Thank you, Honourable Chair.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, would like to thank you for your leadership and the work of the Secretariat in the preparation of the 59th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to report on the recent activities of SGAC.

SGAC is a 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. SGAC is *the* network for the next space generation, with more than 19,000 members and alumni in 168 countries. We look forward to maintaining these positive trends and invite all Member States and their next generation of space leaders to join us in our mission.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, SGAC is proud to report a successful 2021, and a promising start of 2022.

In 2021, SGAC has proved to be an invaluable platform through which students and young professionals can funnel their passion and talent. As an inherently global organisation with volunteers working online together across the world, SGAC was well placed to harness the energy and experience of our members to deliver online events. As the world has re-opened, we have returned to in-person activities without forgetting the lessons learnt from this experience.

SGAC organised two of its international events, the Space Generation Fusion Forum and the Space Generation Congress, in a hybrid format, while maintaining the SGx as only in-person. All of them have been of extreme success with around half delegates attending in-person and online, with a total of more than 50 scholarships provided for these three events.

Furthermore, SGAC hosted 9 Regional and Local events including two African Space Generation Workshops, the South American Space Generation Workshop, European Space Generation Workshop, Asia Pacific Space Generation Workshop, SG[France], SG[Germany], SG[Egypt], the Italian Space Start-up Competition, as well as many online activities, including webinars, workshops, and trivia nights through which we kept our community connected.

The SGAC community has continued to thrive through our Project Groups. In recognition of the



key values of SGAC, we have welcomed a new project group on diversity and gender equality. It is our priority to make SGAC a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for the next generation.

In 2021, Davide Petrillo, SGAC Executive Director, was elected as one of the new vice presidents of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), and SGAC also had the excellent opportunity to present at the second G20 Economy Space Leaders 2021 event in Rome, organised by the Italian Space Agency (ASI). The G20 Presidency had the ambition to include Space into the G20 agenda, confident that the space economy can be a pillar of the global economy. The meeting focused on Space for People, Planet and Prosperity. We thank ASI for having invited SGAC to represent the voice of the young generation of future space leaders.

In 2021, SGAC received incredible news that will transform SGAC for years to come. SGAC was selected to receive a \$1 million grant from Blue Origin's Club for the Future. This incredibly generous donation will allow us to kickstart our visionary endowment fund to support long term growth for SGAC and sustainably provide more scholarships that enable access to international, regional, and local space events for our members. This contribution marks a historic moment for SGAC and will certainly build a solid base for the future as we continue to provide an important, international platform as a voice for the next generation.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, during 2021, SGAC has furthered its policy and advocacy efforts in many ways, while also working on improving the engagement with the United Nations. Starting with the UNOOSA, Davide Petrillo and Valentina Luchetti attended all COPUOS meetings, in which they have delivered statements, submitted official response to the 'Questionnaire on the use of space science and technology for global health', held Technical Presentations and uploaded a Conference Room Paper, presenting the work done by the team "Effective and Adaptive Governance for a Lunar Ecosystem" (E.A.G.L.E.). Finally, the 3rd edition of the [Space4Youth Competition](#), in collaboration with the UN OOSA, was concluded with astonishing numbers: more than 200 essays were received from more than 70 different nationalities with three winners, all women, from the United States, Brazil and India.

In 2022, SGAC plans to be more engaged with the UN ecosystem. The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) is thrilled to announce the establishment of the Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP). Through this new Platform, SGAC will survey the ideas and activities of our members on space policy & advocacy in order to convey them with a united voice to the global space community. The purpose of the Platform is to develop,



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advocate and implement united space policy positions on behalf of the youth, as well as to coordinate, consolidate and disseminate space policy activities conducted within SGAC.

This year, SGAC is joining forces with the European Centre for Space Law to organise in 2022 a joined “UN Model COPUOS” event. The organising team is already working hard to make a high level event for SGAC members interested in international space policy and diplomacy.

2022 will be another important year for SGAC as our three major global events (SGx, SGFF and SGC) are already in preparation for March, April, and September, respectively.

With the experience acquired from the past year, SGAC is gearing up with optimism and encouragement towards a better 2022 with a strong engagement and connection with our members and partners.

In summary, Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, SGAC has shown positive growth over the past 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, 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), ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

As we plan our activities for 2022, we want to reflect on the hard work and outstanding efforts from SGAC members, as well as our mission as the leading international space youth organisation.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that being an Observer Organisation at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is invaluable to SGAC; the organisation is grateful and honoured to be able to report to you, distinguished delegates.

I thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Mr Chair.