

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT

Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of view

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour for the Moon Village Association, as an Observer member to address, virtually, this session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mister Chair, as the MVA Delegation is taking the floor for the first time, we would like to express our confidence 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 acting Director of UNOOSA, Mr Niklas Hedman and his team for the excellent operation of this meeting.

MVA, in 2022, has carried out many activities and I shall summarize just a few of them, more can be seen on the website: www.moonvillageassociation.org.

Two technical presentations by MVA have been held on February 6th and 7th dealing respectively with the results of the first International Moon Day and of the Lunar Commerce Portofolio.

In particular, The Lunar Commerce Portofolio is the result of two years'work of the Lunar Commerce and Finance Working Group of MVA involving about 200 experts from 53 countries. The 200 pages report identifies and assess 9 market segments of the lunar ecosystem. The full report can be downloaded on the MVA website

Mr. Chairman,

In 2023, More than 7 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.

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).

GEGSLA activities have been conducted in 2021 and 2022, mainly online, and by end of 2022 the main deliverables have been completed. They are the "*Recommended Framework and Key elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*" as well as its Annex-1 "*Technical and Operational Practices and Case Studies on Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*" and Annex 2 "*A list of future issues for sustainable lunar activities*"

The Recommended Framework document is included in the Conference Room Paper [A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP20] and it has been distributed, as hard copy, to all Delegations. The Annexes are available on the MVA website

A side event to present the content of the Framework document is organized by MVA and is planned for Thursday 9 February between 14:00 and 14:50, in the room MOE100. All Delegations are invited to participate, in person or online. Recording of the event will be made available on the MVA website.

The Framework document is a starting point inviting delegations to initiate a conversation on international lunar coordination and identify a way forward that is effective and fast considering the urgency of de-risking future lunar activities

MVA hopes that, by the 66th COPUOS session in June 2023, a pragmatic solution on how to coordinate lunar activities would be identified and hopefully agreed.

MVA confirms its support to the UN discussion on lunar coordination by continuing to host GEGSLA with its operational phase.

GEGSLA operational phase has started in January this year and its participants are more than 200 experts from more than 40 countries from different stakeholders like space agency/government, industry, research centres, academia as well as international organization like COSPAR, ILEWH and others

Mister Chairman,

The Moon Village Association is pleased to confirm that the first International Moon Day took place on 20 July 2022 and MVA supported the creation of several events worldwide in more than 25 countries. Details of the events are included in the technical presentation held on 6 February and its annual report is now available.

All members and observers of this Subcommittee are invited to join this important event that will take place for the second time on 20 July 2023. Calls for participation and sponsorship and other relevant information are included on the IMD webpage: www.internationalmoonday.org

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi/ President Moon Village Association