

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT

Agenda Item 3: General Exchange of view

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates

It is an honour for the Moon Village Association, as an Observer member to address, this session of the 66th Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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. 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.

Mister Chair,

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.

The Moon Village Association and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have agreed to host global outreach activities in connection with Chandrayaan-3 launch by ISRO. As part of this, a video competition for student from all the world is on going, few hundred submissions have been received and there is still time for submission

Two technical presentations by MVA are planned, the first held on June 6 and the second planned for June 8 dealing respectively with the results of the first International Moon Day and of the Lunar Commerce Portofolio.

The first International Moon Day took place on 20 July 2022 and MVA supported the creation of several events worldwide in more than 23 countries. Details of the events are included in its annual report now available on the IMD website.

All members and observers of COPUOS are invited to join this important event that will take place for the second time on 20 July 2023. So far more than 20 countries will organize events, and the calls for participation and sponsorship and other relevant information are still open and included at: www.internationalmoonday.org

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

Mister Chair,

In 2023, More than 5 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, 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*” and Annex 2 “*A list of future issues for sustainable lunar activities*”

The status of GEGSLA is included in the Conference Room Paper, A/AC.105/2023/CRP.9,

The Recommended Framework document has been distributed, as hard copy, to all Delegations. The Annexes are available on the MVA website.

A side event to discuss International Lunar Coordination as well as the content of the Framework document is organized by MVA, together with other permanent observers, on June 7, in room CR-7. All Delegations are invited to join.

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, at this session of COPUOS, a pragmatic solution on how to move forward to coordinate lunar activities would be 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 multi stakeholders like space agency/government, industry, research centres, academia as well as international organization like COSPAR and others

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi/ President Moon Village Association