



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

SGAC Statement at the
61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item 11
Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Presented by:
Antonino Salmeri, SGAC Co-Chair



Thank you, Madame Chair. On behalf of the Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, I am pleased to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and would like to assure you of our full support. We also express our gratitude to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti for his able guidance throughout the previous meetings. Further, we would like to congratulate Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini on her appointment as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and express our high appreciation for the excellent work of the Secretariat in preparation of this session.

Distinguished Delegates, SGAC, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide the united views of the space youth on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Our organisation was conceived in 1999 at UNISPACE III “to facilitate the continued participation of young people from all over the world in cooperative space-related activities”. Since then, SGAC has been harnessing the creativity and vigour of the youth to promote the long-term sustainability of space. 25 years later, as noted by the UN Secretary-General in his Policy Brief on Outer Space for the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, the intensification of space endeavours has made their long-term sustainability increasingly challenging, due to a set of formidable difficulties such as orbital congestion, debris accumulation, frequency scarcity, and optical and radio pollution.

Recognising the critical importance of space sustainability for our shared future in space, last year, SGAC established a diverse team of 12 young researchers to produce a report supporting the elaboration of a sustainability “pact” between generations; one that will foster synergy between space stakeholders and raise awareness on the necessity of space sustainability. This “Intergenerational Pact for Space Sustainability” (IPASS) aims to articulate the united vision of the space youth for a safe and sustainable space environment, fostering unity within the global space community. It identifies key topics that we believe should be addressed by policymakers when discussing the long-term sustainability of space activities and considers different avenues to achieve the Pact’s desired



outcomes. While the full IPASS Report is available on the SGAC website, a summary of its recommendations has been compiled for the kind consideration of all Delegations in CRP nr. 13.

Distinguished Delegates, leveraging the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity provided by the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, this year, SGAC will foster an action-oriented, intergenerational and multi-stakeholder dialogue on space sustainability. To begin this dialogue, we are pleased to invite you to a side event on “Space, Youth, and Future Generations” co-organised by SGAC, the Government of Austria, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. This side event will take place in Room M2 on the 7th of February at 6 pm CET and will be followed by networking with light refreshments. For those following online, the event will also be live-streamed on the UN website. Building upon this discussion, we will continue our dialogue in connection with the negotiations of the zero draft of both the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations. We are convinced that these documents offers us a unique opportunity to catalyse the need to think and act for future generations through meaningful youth engagement, and advance the peaceful and sustainable uses of space, and we are grateful to Germany and Namibia, as well as The Netherlands and Jamaica, for their excellent work as Co-Facilitators. Finally, we would like to commend the thought leadership of Portugal in organising, together with UNOOSA, the Conference on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in May, and we look forward to culminating our intergenerational dialogue on space sustainability at that key event.

To conclude, Honourable Chair, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide the Subcommittee with the views of the young generations on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and stand ready to work together with all Member States and Observers to foster the peaceful, sustainable, and cooperative uses of space for the benefit of all humanity, present and future.



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Thank you very much for your kind attention.