

Science and Technical Sub Committee  
Sixty-first Session  
Vienna, 29 January-9 February 2024

## **MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT**

### **Agenda Item 4: General Exchange of view**

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Madame Chair, as the MVA Delegation takes the floor for the first time, we would like to congratulate you on the appointment and 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 newly appointed Director of UNOOSA, Dr. Aarti Holla-Maini, and her team for the excellent operation of this meeting. MVA is eager to work with her team.

MVA would like also to congratulate Japan for the successful precise landing, on the Moon, of the SLIM spacecraft and Astrobotic, from USA, for the transparent and responsible operation of the Peregrine spacecraft.

M.me Chair,

In 2023, MVA has carried out many activities. I will summarize just a few of them, while more can be found on our website: [[www.moonvillageassociation.org](http://www.moonvillageassociation.org)].

The second International Moon Day took place in July 2023 and the International Moon Day project, within MVA, supported the creation of global events in more than 41 countries that took place the week before and after the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. In the same period, a tele-robotics experience was offered, to students from 15 countries, to remotely operate 3 rovers on a simulated lunar surface. The main event took place on 20 July in Gwacheon, South Korea. Details of the events are included in its annual report now available on the IMD website [<https://internationalmoonday.org/international-moon-day-2023-annual-report/>]

For International Moon Day 2024, themed “Illuminating the Shadows,” we anticipate hosting events in more than 60 countries. The main event is set to take place in Harbin, China, on July 20, 2024 in cooperation with Harbin Institute of Technology and the Chinese Society of Astronautics.

We cordially invite all members and observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to participate in this important event. Calls for participation, sponsorship opportunities, and other relevant information can be found on the IMD website,

In 2023, the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Workshop & Symposium of the Moon Village Association was successfully held in Kuraschiki and Tottori, Japan, attracting participation from over 200 individuals from all the world, including a strong Japanese industrial participation and JAXA.

In 2024, the 8th MVA Workshop & Symposium is scheduled to be held in Luxembourg, on December 3rd to 5th. This event will be hosted by the Luxembourg Space Agency.

M.me Chair,

In 2024, we anticipate the launch of over six missions to orbit or land on the Moon, involving both private and government stakeholders. Only last January, two missions aimed at 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, initiated 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 completed in two years, and in 2023 the results were presented to the United Nations. They were the “*Recommended Framework and Key elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*” and its Annexes.

The Framework document serves as a foundational tool, encouraging delegations to engage in discussions on international lunar coordination. It aims to identify an efficient and prompt approach to address the urgent need for mitigating risks in future lunar activities

In January 2023, GEGSLA initiated its Operational Phase, engaging over 200 experts from more than 40 countries including space agencies, governments, industry, research centers, academia, and international organizations like COSPAR. The primary objective of this phase is to assess critical aspects of the Framework document. To further its objectives, GEGSLA initiated three Working Groups, focusing on the following areas: Lunar Environmental Protection, Technical Coordination and Multi-stakeholder Coordination.

The current status of GEGSLA's activities is detailed in the Conference Room Paper, designated A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.11

MVA reaffirms its commitment to supporting the United Nations' discussions on lunar coordination by continuing to host GEGSLA in its operational phase

MVA hopes that, in 2024, a pragmatic solution on how to coordinate lunar activities would be agreed, within the United Nations, in view of its urgency.

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi/

President, Moon Village Association