



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

SGAC Statement at the
58th Annual Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Presented by: Davide Petrillo, SGAC Executive Director



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 58th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during this challenging time. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to report on the recent activities of SGAC.

SGAC is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation and network which aims to represent university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, its Member States, national space agencies, industry, and academia. The focus of SGAC is to provide pragmatic space policy advice to policy makers based on the views of students and young professionals aged 18 to 35, from all over the world. SGAC empowers the next generation of space professionals by providing them a platform for professional development and networking opportunities so that the future space workforce can contribute to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space and the progress of humanity.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, 2020 was a great challenge for us all. Yet, in SGAC members we saw strong glimpses of confidence in the future and persistence in front of adversity that have inspired us to go above and beyond. The message is clear - we must continue connecting our passionate members from all corners of the globe, and provide them a platform for growth to become the future beacons of the space community.

From SGAC, we adapted to COVID restrictions by pioneering new formats of online space events that maintain the essence of SGAC signature events. From webinars, to online workshops, summits, panels, space parties, trivia nights, we pursued every avenue to maintain our community connected and having fun.

The boundless imagination of our team members demonstrated that we can keep our members close to each other as we gear up for resuming in-person events as circumstances permit. Furthermore, we launched new initiatives to continue inspiring our members, provide a diverse and inclusive environment, and support the growth of this great space family.



In 2020 and 2021, SGAC needed to promote and support our global network of students and young professionals stimulating and propelling the creativity of our community. SGAC's members have done more than 120 webinars where we had a total attendance of more than 11,000 people connected from more than 130 countries. This has been and is an excellent opportunity to inspire the present and future workforce of the space sector, to provide opportunities to network and enable to exchange opinions and ideas in an international context.

Last year, SGAC organized SpaceGen United - SGAC's first online Global Congress. SpaceGen United saw 143 delegates from 53 different countries join together for a dynamic and engaging, nine-day programme which hosted 14 hours of keynote speeches. In addition, we hosted online the NextGen Summit in collaboration with IAF and ISEB where we joined forces together to bring a platform for the next generation providing inspiring opportunities and advice through a dedicated 4 hours live session with more than 40 speakers where 70% of them were women.

SGAC also held the SpaceGen Summit designed to provide a comprehensive and diverse programme that brought to the forefront pertinent topics across the current global space industry. SpaceGen Summit proved to be dynamic, stimulating, and fun.

Furthermore, SGAC hosted a total of 9 Regional and Local events online with a specific exception on the SG[France] event that was held on-site as the situation in France remitted at that time. The event organisers followed health authorities' regulations and safety measures, so that the event was both successful and safe for all participants.

The SGAC community has continued to thrive through our Project Groups. In 2020, an outstanding cross collaboration between different SGAC Project Groups brought SGAC to being shortlisted as part of the 10 final winning projects of the Mars City Design Competition out of 176 applications received.

With the experience acquired from the past year, SGAC is gearing up with optimism and encouragement towards a better 2021 with a strong engagement and connection with our members and partners.



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Finally, this past year SGAC went through a major restructure of its Executive Committee to lead the way to the recruitment of a second full-time employee. A second employee was necessary and long sought after, given the constant growth of the organisation and its activities. For this, we warmly welcome Ms. Valentina Luchetti, which, as of April 2021, is Operations Manager of SGAC, supporting the Executive Director and different teams in their work. This past year has also helped SGAC secure its position as one of the largest international networks of students and young professionals in the space sector, with more than 15,000 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 the process.

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, Secure World Foundation, the European Space Agency, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

As we plan our activities for 2021, 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. At this juncture, as the COVID-19 storm abates, we would like to transmit a strong message of hope for 2021 opening a new era for SGAC.

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

I thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Madam Chair.