

MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT

Agenda Item 15: Space Exploration and Innovation

Mister Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Mister Chairperson, 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 Director of UNOOSA, Dr. Aarti Holla-Maini, and her team for the excellent operation of this meeting.

Mister Chairperson,

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].

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 20th 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 the relevant Conference Room Paper and have been presented at a technical presentation held on June 26. The annual report is also available on the IMD website [<https://internationalmoonday.org/international-moon-day-2023-annual-report/>]

For International Moon Day 2024, themed “Illuminating the Shadows,” we have received so far more than 20 proposals from 25 countries and we are aiming to reach 50 countries. One of the main events 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. Another Main Event is planned in Berlin, Germany in cooperation with Neurospace GmbH

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 7th 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.

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In 2024, the 8th MVA Workshop & Symposium is scheduled to be held in Luxembourg, on December 2nd to 3th. This event will be hosted by the Luxembourg Space Agency.

Mister Chairperson,

MVA has been informing COPUOS about the urgency for stakeholders to consult and cooperate in sustainable lunar activities, and developed, to this end, in 2021 a neutral forum for multi-stakeholder discussions on lunar exploration and utilization: The *Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities* or GEGSLA. GEGSLA published in 2023 the “*Recommended Framework and Key elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*” and its Annexes.

The Framework document is a foundational tool, encouraging delegations to engage in discussions on international lunar coordination.

Since 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. GEGSLA initiated three Working Groups, focusing on the following areas: Lunar Environmental Protection, Technical Coordination and Multi-stakeholder Coordination. Details of the status of each working groups are included in the relevant CRP

At this COPUOS, MVA organized, on June 20, a side event titled “Sustainable Lunar Environment; Challenges and Opportunities” in coordination with COSPAR, IAU and For All Moonkind. Recording of the event are available on MVA website.

MVA has started in cooperation with the Human Space Programme an initiative called “Moon for Earth” related to investigating the interaction between Lunar Exploration and Climate Change. Details have been provided in a technical presentation held on June 26 and in the relevant CRP. Delegations are invited to join.

I take this opportunity to congratulate UNOOSA for organizing the first Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities held on June 18 and, 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 and considers the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) a first step in this direction.

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi

President, Moon Village Association