



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

**SGAC Statement at the 67th Annual Session of the  
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Agenda Item 9**  
**Space and Sustainable Development**

**Presented by:**  
**Joshua Critchley-Marrows, SGAC Co-Chair**



Thank you, Mr Chair.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide the united views of the youth on space and sustainable development.

Before doing so, we are pleased to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Honourable Committee and would like to assure you of our full support. We also express our gratitude to Mr. Omran for his able guidance throughout the previous sessions. Further, we would like to congratulate Ms Aarti Holla-Maini on her first COPUOS meeting as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and express our high appreciation for the excellent work that she and the Secretariat have done in preparation for this session.

Distinguished delegates, the space sector is playing a critical role in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Space-based services and technologies - like Earth observation and navigation - have proved invaluable in monitoring climate change, managing large-scale disasters, and supporting terrestrial activities. However, the continuous growth of space activities, although beneficial, if uncontrolled could result in the loss of all the benefits that space provides.

As noted by the Secretary General in his Policy Brief on Outer Space, the time to act is now. In our capacity as representatives of the united voice of the space youth, we have made the sustainability of space activities our utmost priority. To provide our views on this key topic, in February 2024 we published a report proposing an "Intergenerational Pact for Space Sustainability", or IPASS. Our proposed Pact outlines action-oriented recommendations to ensure the peaceful and sustainable uses of space for the benefit of all humanity. Above all, we would like to underline the following three points:

- 1) Firm commitments in national legislation to prevent the creation of new space debris, and, at the international level, development of enabling frameworks and investments for active debris remediation.
- 2) Creation of a global coordination framework, potentially in the form of a system of systems, for space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.



3) Development of foundational principles for the conduct of space resource activities in accordance with international law and in a peaceful, cooperative, safe and sustainable manner.

Finally, we call for meaningful youth engagement by involving youth-led organisations in decision making platforms both at the UN and domestic levels, especially in connection with space governance given its importance for the youth and future generations.

If you wish to know more about our recommendations, we warmly invite you to read our Conference Room Paper on this topic.

Distinguished Delegates, we know space sustainability is a complex and multifaceted subject that requires inputs from all actors. In preparation for the upcoming UN Summit of the Future, at SGAC we have been conducting a global, action-oriented, intergenerational dialogue on space sustainability.

We began this dialogue at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February, by organising a side event on "Space, Youth, and Future Generations" together with the Government of Austria and UNOOSA. We then continued it at the Legal Subcommittee by participating in a side event on "Outer Space in The Zero Draft of the Pact of the Future" organised by the Permanent Mission of Germany and UNOOSA. In the meantime, over the past months, we actively participated in the Civil Society Consultations organised by the Co-Facilitators of the Pact of the Future, Germany and Namibia, and submitted written inputs on both the Pact of the Future and Declaration on Future Generations. Last but not least, in May we have been pleased to participate in the excellent Conference on the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space, co-organised by the Government of Portugal and UNOOSA. We note with utmost appreciation the development by Member States present at that event of the "Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space ", a thoughtful document that we hope will be taken into due consideration in the final negotiations of the Pact for the Future.

To conclude, Mr Chair, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide the views of the young generations on space and sustainable development and stand ready to work together with all Distinguished Delegations to build a sustainable space sector for the benefit of all humanity, present and future.



Thank you very much for your kind attention.