

Legal Sub Committee  
Sixty-third Session  
Vienna, 15-26 April 2024

## **MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATEMENT**

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

Mister Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour for the Moon Village Association, as an Observer member, to address this session of the Legal Subcommittee 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 newly appointed 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](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. The main event took place on 20 July in Gwacheon, South Korea. Details of the events are included in the relevant Conference Room Paper A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP. 16 and have been presented at a technical presentation held, on April 17. The annual report is also available on the IMD website [<https://internationalmoonday.org/international-moon-day-2023-annual-report/>] and it has been distributed at this meeting.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4th. This event will be hosted by the Luxembourg Space Agency.

MVA considers the activities of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources activities of fundamental importance for the future of lunar exploration and is actively involved in meetings and providing inputs as was done in 2023 and, hopefully will be done in 2024.

Mister Chairperson,

In 2024, several missions are being launched to orbit or land on the Moon, involving both private and government stakeholders. Only in the last months, three missions aimed at the Moon and I take this opportunity to congratulate Japan and US for the successful lunar landings achieved. However, 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.

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.

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 the right direction.

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi

President, Moon Village Association