



SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS**

**SGAC Statement at the
64th Annual Session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Agenda Item 8
General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities
in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources**

**Presented by:
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Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, sincerely appreciates the opportunity to share the united voice of the space youth on the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources. First, we commemorate the late Ambassador Andrzej Misztal: an outstanding diplomat, a dear friend and a true inspiration to young people interested in pursuing a diplomatic career in international law. We will be forever grateful to Andrzej for his remarkable work as Chair of the LSC and of the Space Resources Working Group, and his guidance as a long-standing advisor of SGAC.

Distinguished delegates,

At SGAC we continue to firmly believe that space resources hold the potential to increase both the sustainability and inclusivity of space exploration. We are grateful to the delegations for ensuring that the interests of future generations are duly considered in various national contributions and thank the Bureau of the Working Group for reflecting the importance of sustainable and inclusive exploration and use of outer space in the first draft principles.

We encourage the Working Group to draft an initial set of principles that can serve as key pillars, providing solid foundations for the iterative development of policies, standards, and laws, based upon our evolving understanding of the technological and economic realities of space resources.

With regard to these pillars, we would like to submit the following suggestions for kind consideration by the Working Group.

First, any set of principles related to space resources should be consistent with the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable instruments of international space law and should balance the interests of the scientific community and the commercial sector to facilitate long-term, sustainable and safe use of outer space. We continue to believe that adopting an open and flexible concept of space resources would ensure that the principles can withstand the testing of time. Complementarily, to enhance their practical impact, we recommend drafting them in two parts: a general set applicable to all space resource activities, and a subset specific to those conducted on the Moon, given the fact that at least the first decades of space resource activities will be conducted on our natural satellite.



Second, we suggest a reference to Article I OST and its province principle to encourage all States to cooperate and be inclusive in their exploration and use of the Moon and to engage in capacity building and benefit sharing activities to the greatest extent practical, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries. With a view to Article II OST, no actor should be allowed to exercise permanent and exclusive control over the territories of celestial bodies in any manner that can be regarded as equivalent to their *de facto* appropriation. Therefore, we recommend that all space resource activities should be limited in time and size, depending on the nature of the resource pursued, and taking into account the legitimate interests of operators.

Third, in line with Article IV (2) OST, we urge the Working Group to firmly uphold the principle that the Moon and other celestial bodies, including their natural resources, shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Fourth, building upon Art. V OST and the Rescue and Return Agreement, we suggest that the principles declare the protection of human life as an absolute priority for every lunar operation and that it provides for States to render all possible assistance to astronauts in distress, no matter their nationalities. Member States may consider towards this end, to develop interoperable human-life-support systems based on open international standards.

Fifth, we suggest that the principles define a mechanism for identifying internationally recognised heritage sites on the Moon, inviting all States to refrain from altering them to the greatest extent feasible and practicable. To this end, we recommend complementing the principles with an evolving list of space resources that are internationally recognised as scarce, including appropriate preservation measures. We suggest updating this list on a regular cadence to ensure its continued relevance, based upon the latest scientific and technological advancements.

Finally, based upon Article IX OST, we urge to ensure that space resources are used with due regard to the corresponding interests of others, and especially future generations and developing nations. This is particularly significant with regard to scarce resources and special locations, to ensure their fair and sustainable uses. We also suggest that the principles encourage all States to proactively share essential information on their lunar activities as required under Article XI OST.



In conclusion, we are grateful to this Honourable Committee for the opportunity to share our the united voice of the space youth and stand ready to continue providing our full support to the Working Group in this critical phase of its mandate.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.