

25 August 2021

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-fourth session
Vienna, 25 August–3 September 2021

Proposal for a proclamation of the International Moon Day

Proposal submitted by the Moon Village Association

I. Introduction and Background

1. The Moon Village Association (MVA) recognizes the work of the United Nations and its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in strengthening the cooperation and coordination efforts, at global level, in the area of sustainable exploration and utilization of the Moon. This requires cooperative actions on the part of the global community in the interest of humankind.
2. The Moon Village Association considers that the peaceful exploration and utilization of the Moon is the next step for humanity in opening new perspectives related to economic, cultural and inspirational goals. The Moon has huge benefits to offer to humanity, but these have to be shared between all countries and involve space and non-space industries.
3. Humanity needs to work together to reach this goal, at all levels including governments, industry, academia, international organization and the public. The interest in the exploration and utilization of the Moon has seen a major surge of efforts globally in the last few years. Several missions have already been launched and many more are planned in the next few years. These include the return of humans to the Moon. This is the reason why the public needs to be made aware of all these developments and prospective events. In this spirit, MVA recommends that COPUOS adopts and proposes to the United Nations General Assembly the approval of the International Moon Day as an annual educational, cultural and scientific event. This is aimed at raising awareness among the general public about the status and prospects of the programmes, at a global level, of Moon Exploration and Utilization and at promoting public support for getting involved in this major step for humanity.
4. Moon Exploration has started when Luna 2, a spacecraft launched by the Soviet Union, made an impact on the surface of the Moon on September 14, 1959. Many more spacecraft have been launched in the last 62 years from different stakeholders including: China, India, Japan, Europe, Israel, the Russian Federation and United States to better understand the Moon and its relationship to Earth. However, the first human landing on the Moon on 20 July 1969 by the United States Apollo 11 mission represent the pinnacle of these efforts.



5. International Days and Weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the United Nations has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. Related to outer space there are already established events like: World Space Week (4–10 October), International Day of Human Space Flight (12 April), International Asteroid Day (30 June).

6. MVA believes that the International Moon Day is a good and worthy opportunity to educate the public and promote such worldwide action on the status and prospects for humanity of the sustainable Moon Exploration and Utilization. This event will foster increased global cooperation between stakeholders in all countries of the world as well as promoting increasing participation to this goal of the future generation and better gender balance.

7. The International Moon Day is intended as an annual event held for the general public on the anniversary of the 1969 first human landing, 20 July. The International Moon Day informs the public of the work undertaken in this area by COPUOS and its member States facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

II. Purpose

8. The International Moon day is to be observed annually on 20 July to raise awareness among the public and generate support for sustainable Moon Exploration and Utilization.

9. The International Moon day encourages and promotes events around the globe on 20 July, including community panel discussion, lectures, webinar, concerts exhibits and screening of educational videos.

10. In view of the strong involvement of many countries around the world in the sustainable Exploration and Utilization of the Moon, the Moon Village Association asks the member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of outer Space to support Moon Day's goal and to propose that the United Nations General Assembly at its 76th session in 2021 declares the International Moon day as the annual global observance. The purpose of such a Moon Day is to promote and raise each year at the international level the awareness of the status and prospects for sustainable Exploration and Utilization of the Moon and the need to act together to regulate activities on and around the Moon. Because 20 July was the date of the first human Moon landing, we propose that the United Nations General Assembly resolve that the International Moon day be celebrated and promoted annually on that date.

11. All Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, would be invited to observe the International Moon Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise public awareness of the status and prospects of sustainable exploration and utilization of the Moon.

12. The global observance of the International Moon day could be facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, and the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present proposal should be met from voluntary contributions.