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English only

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Report of the Moon Village Association of the International Moon Day – Support Implementation Status

Paper submitted by the Moon Village Association

I. Introduction

1. The Moon Village Association (MVA), as a permanent observer, recognises 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 the global level, in the area of sustainable exploration and utilisation 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 utilisation 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 must be shared between all countries and involve space and non-space industries. Humanity needs to work together to reach this goal with all stakeholders, including governments, industry, academia, international organisations, and the public.
3. Moon Exploration began 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 63 years from different stakeholders, including China, India, Japan, Europe, Israel, Russia, United States, to better understand the Moon and its relationship to Earth. However, the first human landing on the Moon on July 20 1969 by the United States Apollo 11 mission represents the pinnacle of these efforts.
4. The interest in the exploration and utilisation 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 (i.e. in 2022, 9 lunar missions are planned). These include the return of humans to the Moon. This is the reason why the general public needs to be made aware of all these developments and prospective events. In this spirit, MVA recommended in August 2021 (A/AC.105/2021/CRP.14) 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.



5. COPUOS took note of the proposal for the proclamation of the International Moon Day (A/AC.105/2021/CRP.14) and agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that, at its seventy-sixth session, in 2021, the Assembly proclaim that International Moon Day be observed annually, on 20 July.
6. United Nations General Assembly, at the seventy-sixth session, approved the proposal on December 9 (A/76/415, item 13). The relevant text is hereafter: “Declares 20 July International Moon Day, to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon on 20 July 1969 as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission, taking into consideration the achievements of all States in the exploration of the Moon, and to raise public awareness about sustainable Moon exploration and utilization”.
7. Following the United Nations General Assembly approval, the International Moon Day will be celebrated annually, from July 20 2022. 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.
8. All Member States, organisations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organisations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations and individuals, are 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 utilisation of the Moon.

II. Implementation

9. Because MVA has been an early advocate of the concept of the International Moon Day (IMD) celebration, MVA is taking the initiative to support and contribute to its implementation. However, stakeholders all over the world are invited to organize events on this date and inform MVA to increase their visibility and foster future cooperation. The goals of the IMD are fully in line with the MVA mission and objectives to promote the development of lunar exploration in addressing the largest public, scientific, educational, and industrial communities. Introducing a new specific organization for the celebration of IMD might not be efficient at this stage; this is the reason why MVA has set up an International Moon Day Group (IMD-G) within its organization.
10. IMD-G has set up a specific webpage (www.internationalmoonday.org) to host outreach material to foster the organization of the events, as well as keep track of the events organized all over the world, which will have a specific, different theme every year.
11. The theme for 2022 is “Lunar Exploration Coordination and Sustainability”.
12. MVA will keep COPUOS informed of the results achieved by the IMD each year with an annual report to be presented at the STSC.
13. The selected Chair of the IMD-G is Dr. Nasr Al-Sahhaf (SA); several industrial and governmental organizations have already indicated to MVA their support for the IMD as organizers and sponsor of events.
14. The global observance of the International Moon Day could be facilitated by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, and that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present proposal should be met from voluntary contributions.
15. The International Moon Day shall be celebrated through a large spectrum of events, which might be organized with a top-down or bottom-up approach worldwide. These will aim to reach the general public and younger generations through educational activities, but also the classical space communities, i.e. governments, agencies, industry, NGOs, scientific laboratories, universities, and finance providers.

16. The International Moon Day encourages and promotes events around the globe on July 20, including community panel discussion, lectures, webinars, concerts, exhibits and showcases of educational videos. Funding of the events could be based on contribution in kind and/or financial.

17. The organization of top-down events will come from the IMD-G organization or other stakeholders, either at the global level (typically MVA or IMD-G) or at Regional or Country levels through the Regional/National Coordinators. Generally, these will be large events that may request some budget, and therefore some sponsoring. A typical example of a top-down is the LIVE media events organized by the Asteroid Foundation for the Asteroid Day every year.

18. The organization of bottom-up events will come from any organizations or individual at the local level, which will propose a specific celebration of IMD well adapted to their target and local characteristics. These will generally be smaller events, not needing sponsorship other than in-kind resources (e.g. people from companies or universities organizing the event). Examples of bottom-up events, in person and online, may be found in the World Space Week experience, for instance, with lectures in schools, roundtable, etc.

19. The Moon Village Association is planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations defining a framework of cooperation for the implementation of the International Moon Day. The goal of this MoU is to ensure coordinated communications of the event in line with United Nations mandate.

III. Activities Status

20. The International Moon Day Implementation Status was presented, at the 59th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 8–18 February 2022 as A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.16, and at the 61st Legal Subcommittee, 28 March–8 April, as A/AC.105/C.2/2022/CRP16.

21. Details of the International Moon Day were presented, for the first time, in Paris on March 29 at the International Astronautical Federation Global Network Forum (GNF) event.

22. IMD-G held a presentation on the IMD status and planning at the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) 2022 in Arlington, Virginia, 27–29 May.

23. The Calls for events as well as for Logo competition and Sponsorship are open till 30 June and can be found at: www.internationalmoonday.org.

24. Delegations, Members and Permanent Observers are kindly invited to organize events in their countries and reply to the call to foster global cooperation in the lunar exploration.

25. Involvement in the top-down event should be coordinated via the IMD website.

26. Social Media campaign is on-going with the first newsletter to be released in June. Outreach material to facilitate the organization of bottom-up events is available on the IMD website.