Report of the Space Generation Advisory Council on the role of space for climate action

Paper submitted by the Space Generation Advisory Council

1. The Space Generation Advisory Council in Support for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications is pleased to present a unique Report titled “Saving Our Future on Earth Through Our Presence in Space”, which outlines the official policy position of the Space Generation Advocacy Council on the role of space for climate action, on behalf of all space youth.

2. The SGAC Climate Report outlines 31 practical recommendations emphasizing the need for a decisive approach to increase the sustainability of the space industry as a way to ensure a better future for all humankind. The recommendations include decoupling the space and defence sectors, streamlining environmental impact assessments into current and future missions, and using Venus and Mars as viable case studies for understanding our climate. These recommendations target various stakeholders across the scientific community, academia, governments and policymakers, as well as commercial actors.

3. The SGAC Climate Report was developed by a specialized policy division established within SGAC’s Policy & Advocacy Platform (SGAPP) in December 2021, pursuant to the release of Our Common Agenda by the United Nations Secretary General. Over the course of last year, this diverse group of young professionals from our Policy & Advocacy Platform worked hard to collect the views and proposals of the space generation on how space could, and should, contribute to the fight against climate change. Ultimately, the Report was approved by the SGAC executive committee on October 20th, 2022, thus becoming the official policy position of the space youth in the global space industry.

4. Since its publication, SGAC has been extensively advocating the Climate Report at the international level, including a dedicated session at the ASCEND Conference organized by the International Academy of Astronautics, and two high-level panel discussions during the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLOC) jointly organized with the International Astronautical Federation. For any question on the