

**64th session of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
25 August to 3 September 2022**

**Statement by the
International Space University (ISU)**

Dear Chair, distinguished Delegates.

On behalf of the International Space University, I would like to start by offering our support to this Committee and its work in any way possible, and to congratulate you Mr Chair, on your successful mandate, especially with the Space 2030 Agenda.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide a brief report on ISU's recent achievements and future plans in support of the aims of the Committee.

About the International Space University

The International Space University was founded in 1987 as an institution of higher learning, dedicated to the exploration and development of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humanity. We are registered as a non-profit organization in France and in the USA.

Looking at the "Space 2030" Agenda and its four overarching objectives, my University feels very much identified with objective 3.3 that I will quote here "Enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and technology, in particular for developing countries".

Throughout its three decades of existence, ISU has dedicated itself to international affiliations, collaboration, and open, scholarly pursuits related to outer space exploration and development using a '3Is' *international, intercultural* and *interdisciplinary* approach.

ISU faculty members are drawn from all sectors of the global space community, and include our Chancellor, Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund, President of the International Astronautical Federation and to whom I will be handing over the ISU presidency this Thursday during the Inauguration Ceremony of the new academic year.

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I would like to acknowledge that the Director of the UNOOSA Office Ms. Di Pippo and her Office for the excellent preparations of this meeting, and also for the recent signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with ISU, that opens new opportunities of collaboration in space education and training to students in underprivileged communities and regions. The MoU includes a commitment on funding of scholarships. For ISU programs.

We are also pleased to report on a recent collaboration with the Space Generation Advisory Council where we provide financial aid to promising candidate students from the African continent. Several of them, coming from Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Perú, South Africa, South Sudan and Thailand, were already engaged this summer as teaching associates during the ISU Space Studies Program in Granada, Spain, and one of them, from Cameroon, is starting this week the ISU Master of Space Studies at our Central Campus in Strasbourg, France.

In India, and thanks to the Kalpana Chawla Project for Innovation, Entrepreneurism & Space Studies, we have been able to support the enrolment in our programs of several Indian female students each year since 2017.

I am particularly pleased to acknowledge the ISU alumni, faculty and community members present here today.

There are today more than 5.200 ISU alumni from 110 countries, who have learned to embrace the values of space exploration and development for peaceful purposes and in an inclusive and sustainable way.

This alumni community includes today top leaders in academia, space agencies, governments, and industry around the world. Current or former Heads of Space Agencies in Australia, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, and South Africa have studied at ISU in their earlier careers. The former President of China's CASC Corporation is also an ISU alumnus.

Some of our recent alumni were honored to present the results of an ISU Team Project on "The role of space during pandemics" that was conducted during last year's online Interactive Space Program by a class of 86 participants from 30 nationalities in five continents.

For the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we would like to propose a presentation of a Team Project on "Tracking plastic pollution in the Arctic Ocean from Space", prepared by a group of Master students this year.

These Team Projects are an essential component of our academic programs, where participants gain a valuable hands-on experience of collaboration in international and interdisciplinary teams to tackle a topic of interest to the world space community.

1. Master of Space Studies

The MSc in Space Studies (MSS) is ISU's main academic program, a one-year degree with an optional, additional thesis year, which runs at ISU's central campus in Strasbourg, France.

This year's Masters class comprises 43 students representing 21 nationalities, including Algeria, Brazil, Cameroon, Mexico and Venezuela, and with 50% women.

Our yearly survey on employment of our Masters' graduates has shown that more than 80 % of recent alumni reported to have a job or continued studies (mainly PhD). Compared to previous years, a higher number of them have found employment in (New) space consultancy companies.

2. Space Studies Program

The Space Studies Program (SSP) is a nine-week professional development program that takes place at a new location each year in the June-August period.

This year, the SSP program was offered in hybrid mode to 111 participants from 35 nationalities and hosted physically by the University of Granada in Spain and by ISU in Strasbourg, as well as online.

Next year, SSP22 will be hosted in Portugal by the Portuguese Space Agency and the Instituto Superior Técnico of the University of Lisbon.

3. Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program

This year's edition was offered online and as usual in partnership with the University of South Australia. For the first time, an ISU course was offered simultaneously in two different time zones, allowing for participants to attend from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region.

The five weeks of study and work concluded last February with the presentation of the Team Project on "Space assets and technology for bushfire management".

The next program will also be co-hosted with the University of South Australia and delivered online in January and February 2022. The Team Project will include "Regional space alliances in the Asia-Pacific".

4. Commercial Space Programs graduate certificate

Since 2019, ISU offers a yearly 12-credit six-week graduate certificate on Commercial Space Programs, in collaboration with the Florida Institute of Technology.

5. Other Activities and Achievements

New services in space business incubation and acceleration are now available at ISU's campus in Strasburg with support from the French Space Agency (CNES) and the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as the Strasbourg Eurometropolis and the Grand Est Region in France.

The one-week Executive Space Course, for professionals who are new to the space sector, is now offered several times per year and in different time zones: the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific.

In all its activities, the International Space University strongly supports the aims and objectives of COPUOS.

If any delegates would like to know more about ISU, they are invited to contact us. Delegations may find it useful to consult recent Team Project reports on topics linked to Space and the Sustainable Development Goals, on Space Weather, Disaster Management or on the Long-Term Sustainability of Earth's Orbits and the Moon. These reports are publicly available on the ISU Library website.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the main activities and plans of the International Space University to this Committee.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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