



**SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS**

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

September 1, 2021

Presented by: Valentina Luchetti, SGAC Operations Manager

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to join the other delegations in thanking the Office of Outer Space Affairs, in particular, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo and the Secretariat, in the preparation of the 64th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It is my pleasure to address you and briefly update the Committee on the recent and current activities of the Space Generation Advisory Council or SGAC.

The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications is a global non-governmental, non-profit organisation and network, which represents university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, space agencies, industry, and academia. SGAC works diligently to provide opportunities in the space industry through events, scholarships, projects, and professional development. Our network of members, volunteers, and alumni has grown to more than 16,000 members representing more than 165 countries. Our mission is to share the input of the next generation of space sector leaders on space issues with

different stakeholders in the sector, while also helping those next-generation leaders, our members, in their professional development and continued knowledge building on space issues.

Honourable Chairs and Distinguished Delegates, 2 weekends ago SGAC hosted the 9th annual Space Generation Fusion Forum in conjunction with the 36th Space Symposium, in Colorado Springs, USA. Under the new three and a half-day hybrid format, delegates were able to spend time with extraordinary space peers, from industry, academia and space agencies, as well as spend time with each other, future space leaders.

SGAC brought together a total of 135 attendees, of which 85 in-person and 50 online, students and young professionals from 26 different countries, along with 50 speakers.

This year the Fusion Forum incorporated a new programmatic feature: on August 7th, delegates were able to take part in virtual networking and received introductions to their breakout sessions.

The event showed incredible success in its new hybrid format. Whilst numbers have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, about 20 scholarship winners attended the event, and the delegates showcased diversity in gender, nationality as well as educational and professional experience.

We would like to thank the Space Foundation, in particular, and our sponsors for their support in making this event possible.

On September 7th, SGAC will host the 6th SGx event in Washington DC in conjunction with the Satellite conference and in partnership with Future Space Leaders Foundation. The SGx event features TED talks on the journeys and perspectives of space sector leaders. The event is planned to be fully in person with an entirely virtual encore event taking place about a month later for all ticket holders including those who were unable to attend in person.

Our organisation is now working hard to plan the 19th Space Generation Congress (SGC) in Dubai, this October, which will be held just prior to the 71st International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The event is planned in a fully hybrid format, with 80 delegates attending in-person, amongst which 40 are scholarship winners, and 70 delegates attending online.

Current and former partners include many of the world's space agencies, major industry players, non-profit organisations, and academic institutions. The event offers the next generation of space sector leaders from government, industry, and academia the opportunity to come together to exchange views on current, pressing space topics via 6 interactive working groups, on the following topics:

- Science and discovery enabled by a Mars Sample Return, hosted by Lockheed Martin;
- Utilizing Space Technologies for Climate Change and Sustainability, hosted by Planet;
- Space Safety and Security, hosted by the European Space Agency
- International Space Development and Cooperation, hosted by SGAC, Airbus and Virgin Orbit;
- Safeguarding Earth, hosted by NASA Planetary Defense Coordination Office;
- Artemis Site Planning and Strategic Goals for a Global Return to the Moon, hosted by NASA Exploration.

The programme will also allow these top delegates to network with each other as well as with today's current space leaders, who will be speaking and moderating the discussions. SGAC is keenly looking forward to the outcome of this event, as it will be presented to you, distinguished delegates, during the next UNCOPUOS meetings.

Honourable Chairs and Distinguished Delegates, SGAC is very proud to announce that at the beginning of July, SGAC and 18 other space related non-profit charitable organisations, were selected to receive a \$1 million grant from Blue Origin's Club for the Future. SGAC is profoundly grateful for this transformative grant. This incredible gift will allow us to tremendously expand our ability to reach and empower more members throughout the world, promote diversity and inclusion in our industry, and do more of what we do best – to launch space careers across the world.

To conclude, SGAC would like to thank the United Kingdom and Italy for the organisation of COP26 and PreCOP26, respectively. Under the program All4Climate - Italy 2021, SGAC had the opportunity to organise together with the UNOOSA the 3rd edition of the Space4Youth Competition. The latter, consisting in the submission of an essay on "Space as a tool to foster climate mitigation and adaptation", was concluded with astonishing numbers; more than 200 essays were received from people coming from more than 70 different nationalities. Out of those, 3 winners have been selected, all of them women from the United States, Brazil and India.

All aforementioned successes and activities of the SGAC would not have been possible without the tireless effort of our volunteers, as well as the support of our international partners and sponsors, including Lockheed Martin, NASA, Blue Origin, Space Foundation, Secure World Foundation, the European Space Agency, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

We invite you to engage with the young professionals and students from your respective countries and encourage them to join us. Please come speak to us if there's the desire to learn more about SGAC activities.

In the meantime, I thank this Committee and the distinguished delegates for their time and attention.

I thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.