



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

SGAC Statement at the
57th Annual Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Presented by: Clémentine Decoopman, SGAC Executive



Thank you, Honourable Chair.

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, would like to thank you for your leadership and the work of the Secretariat in the preparation of the 57th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to report on the recent activities of SGAC.

SGAC is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation and network which aims to represent university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, its Member States, national space agencies, industry, and academia. The focus of SGAC is to provide pragmatic space policy advice to policy makers based on the views of students and young professionals aged 18 to 35, from all over the world. SGAC aims to empower the next generation of space professionals by providing them a platform for professional development and networking opportunities so that the future space workforce can contribute to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space and the progress of humanity.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, 2019 was an extremely successful year for SGAC as we celebrated our 20th anniversary. Building on the sustained growth of the past few years, SGAC continued achieving its mission by:

- Promoting the exchange of ideas: through sharing the perspectives of students and young professionals through technical publications and presentations by our project groups;
- Connecting the space generation: by organising international events to enable the exchange of perspectives among students and young professionals in the space sector, and networking with experts and senior space professionals;
- Empowering the youth: by enabling university students and young professionals participate in international space conferences through scholarships and competitions, and
- Creating opportunities: by giving our members a platform to grow professionally and develop leadership skills.

Throughout 2019, SGAC further developed its standing, volunteer-led Project Groups, which have contributed to the space community on a wide range of key topics. Led by students and young professionals, our project groups have more than 400 members



distributed in all UN geographic regions. These project groups contributed to more than 10 publications in 2019. The dynamism of the Project Groups has also been proved by the creation of four new groups in 2019, a way to offer new opportunities to our members to learn about the space fields:

- The Space Technology for Earth Applications Project Group
- The Ethics and Human Rights Project Group
- The Space and Cybersecurity Project Group
- The Space Medicine and Life Sciences Project Group, whose activities will be presented by its Co-Leader last week.

Distinguished delegates, SGAC's second area of development in 2019 was bringing industry leaders and our members together, through a series of international events and workshops for young professionals and university students.

- SGAC organised its SGx event, held in conjunction with SATELLITE in Washington DC in March and welcomed more than 100 participants and 20 speakers.
- SGAC hosted the 8th Space Generation Fusion Forum, in conjunction with the 35th Space Symposium, and hosted by the Space Foundation in Colorado, providing an opportunity for fast-paced discussions on the future of space activities. This event showcased 75 delegates from more than 17 different countries.
- SGAC also successfully hosted the 18th Space Generation Congress (SGC) in Washington D.C., United States in conjunction with the 70th International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The most successful to date, this event showcased 150 delegates from more than 50 countries. The delegates' findings and preliminary recommendations will be presented by our delegation at this Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during a technical presentation on later this week.

Madam Chair, as part of our efforts to bridge the gap between regions and promote international collaboration within the space community, SGAC has continued to organise regional workshops aimed at discussing regionally relevant space topics. In 2019, SGAC hosted for the first time one regional workshops per region including the



first Middle-Eastern Space Generation Workshop in Istanbul, Turkey. The organisation continued its series of local events in 2019 with 24 events in more than 20 different countries.

Once again, SGAC exceeded its targets in terms of number of scholarships, awarding more than 152 scholarships and awards to students and young professionals in 2019. Our scholarships support the attendance of students and young professionals at international space conferences, providing them the opportunity to present their work, while also taking part in global discussions on the future of space activities as part of SGAC or partner events.

In addition to the growth in our activities, SGAC also spent the past year strengthening strategic partnerships and institutional ties and formalised partnerships with 20 new entities. To honour and highlight these partnerships and those that made them possible, in 2019 SGAC launched the SpaceGen Ambassador Award, to acknowledge organisations that deeply care for our generation, our talents, skills and needs. Similarly, SGAC launched the the SGAC Alumni Award, to acknowledge selected alumni for meritorious contributions to the SGAC community.

Finally, in 2019, SGAC went through a major restructure of its Executive Committee to lead the way to the recruitment of a second full-time employee. A second employee was necessary and long sought after, given the constant growth of the organisation and its activities. For this, we warmly welcome Mr. Matteo Cappella, which, as of January 2020, is Operations Manager of SGAC, supporting the Executive Director and different teams in their work.

In summary, Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, SGAC has shown positive growth over the past year, which 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, Space Foundation, Secure World Foundation, the European Space Agency, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), ArianeGroup, Airbus, and many others.

2019 has helped SGAC secure its position as one of the largest international networks of students and young professionals in the space sector, with more than 15,000 members and alumni in 150 countries. We look forward to maintaining these positive



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trends and invite all Member States and their next generation of space leaders to join us in the process.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that being Observer Organization at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is invaluable to SGAC; the organization is grateful and honoured to be able to report to you, distinguished delegates.

I thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Madam Chair.