



SPACE GENERATION  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

# SGAC statement at International Space Forum

Reggio Calabria, September 5th 2019

Distinguished Participants,

The Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, would like to thank Consiglio Regionale della Calabria and La città metropolitana di Reggio Calabria for hosting us in these beautiful venues and of course IAF and ASI for the leadership in the preparation of the 4th International Space Forum at the Ministerial Level, the Meditearrenean Chapter. We deeply appreciate the opportunity of being part of this event.

SGAC was conceived at the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna in 1999. SGAC has today over 15 000 members and alumni from over 150 countries, and it has successfully carried forward its activities of non-governmental, non-profit organisation and network. SGAC's mission is to represent university students and young space professionals in the age 18-35 years old, to the United Nations, States, space agencies, industries, and academia. This year we celebrate our 20th anniversary and the last 2 years were, in fact, extremely successful.

Building on the sustained growth of the past, SGAC continued achieving its mission by:



1. Connecting the space generations by organising international events to enable the exchange of perspectives in the space sector, and networking senior space professionals;
2. Empowering of the youth: by enabling university students and young professionals to participate in international space conferences through scholarships, and
3. Creating opportunities: by giving our members a platform to grow professionally and develop leadership skills.

SGAC managed to bring industry leaders and our members together, through a series of international events and workshops.

SGAC also successfully hosted the 17th Space Generation Congress (SGC) in Bremen, Germany in conjunction with the 69th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), the most successful to date. This event showcased 150 delegates from 45 countries, with more than 50% of delegates supported by a scholarship.

These global events are just a few examples of SGAC successes, as they've been developed alongside regional and local events - for a total of 33 in 2018 only.

On top, SGAC further developed its hands-on activities towards the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular attention to Climate Change. Our ten standing, volunteer-led, global based Project Groups, have today more than 400 members (young professionals and PhD students). In 2018 only, these project groups contributed to more than 30 publications. The project groups cover space related topics such as Small Satellites, Commercialization of Space, Space Exploration, Space Law and Policies and last but not least Remote Sensing and Earth Observation.

With respect to Remote Sensing and Earth Observation, on top of my role as executive member and Project Groups coordinator, with Emma Velterop and Swetha Kotichintala, I founded the Space Technologies for Earth Applications Project Group, which focuses on 3 major areas: 1) Artificial Intelligence, which deals with topics related to Earth Observation and Data Science, 2) Disaster Management, which deals with Early Warning and Hazard Mapping solutions using both optical and radar data, and 3) Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

We are currently organizing a hackathon, supported by Airbus, the U.S. State Department and the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (Instituto Nacional De Pesquisas Espaciais [INPE]), which will take place in Washington on Sunday October 20th 2019 just before the IAC. Shortly after, we will launch a call for new projects and, given our members professional background, Maritime will be one of the topics to focus our efforts on. In this regard, we are open to proposals and collaborations, and invite you to reach out to the Project Group and screen our partnerships portfolio.



The success of the SGAC's would not have been possible without the support of our International partners and sponsors, including UNOOSA, Lockheed Martin, Airbus, NASA, the UAE Space Agency, DLR, ESA, ASI, Secure World Foundation and many others. Thanks to our key partners and sponsors, and even more to our tireless and enthusiastic volunteers, SGAC continues to work hard in the space sector, collaborating with many other organisations around the world, proud of being the voice of students and young professionals in the space community.

With this in mind, we look forward to the 18th edition of the Space Generation Congress, to be held in 2019 in Washington DC, United States and the 70th edition of the International Astronautical Congress.

Our hope and goal is to see many young professionals and students from all over the world contributing to these events, and from these to the overall space sector, more and more every year.

Thanks,  
Ciro Farinelli

SGAC Executive Council member  
Project Groups Coordinator  
Space Technology for Earth Applications founder & co-leader