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English only

Committee on the Peaceful**Uses of Outer Space****Legal Subcommittee****Sixty-third session**

Vienna, 15–26 April 2024

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Information on the activities of international
intergovernmental and non-governmental
organizations relating to space law****Report of the Moon Village Association on the International
Moon Day 2023 and Outlook for 2024****Conference room paper by the Moon Village Association****Introduction**

1. The interest in the exploration and utilization of the Moon has seen a major surge of efforts globally in the last few years. Several missions have already been launched, and many more are planned in the next few years (i.e. about 100 are planned until 2030). This includes plans for the return of humans to the Moon. This is the reason why the general public needs to be made aware of all these developments and prospective events. In this spirit, in August 2021, the Moon Village Association recommended (A/AC.105/2021/CRP.14) that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopt and propose to the United Nations General Assembly the recognition of International Moon Day an annual educational, cultural and scientific event.
2. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the proposal for the proclamation of the International Moon Day (A/AC.105/2021/CRP.14) and agreed to recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session in 2021, proclaim that International Moon Day be observed annually, on 20 July.
3. At its seventy-sixth session, the General Assembly approved the proposal on 9 December (A/76/415, item 13). The relevant text is hereafter: “Declares 20 July International Moon Day, to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon on 20 July 1969 as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission, taking into consideration the achievements of all States in the exploration of the Moon, and to raise public awareness about sustainable Moon exploration and utilization”.
4. Starting on 20 July 2022, the International Moon Day has been celebrated annually following the approval of the General Assembly. The International Moon Day serves to inform the public about the work undertaken in this area by the

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.326.



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its member States, with facilitation from the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

5. Because the Moon Village Association has been an early advocate of the concept of the International Moon Day (IMD) celebration, the Moon Village Association is taking the initiative to support and contribute to its implementation. However, all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, are invited to organize events on this date and are encouraged to inform the Moon Village Association of these events to enhance their visibility and promote future cooperation.

6. In 2023, the Moon Village Association presented the results of the First International Moon Day celebration of 2022 to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with technical presentations. These results are available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

7. At this Legal Subcommittee, the Moon Village Association shall present the results of the IMD 2023 and Outlook for 2024 in a technical presentation. Details of the date and time of this presentation will be indicated in the Legal Subcommittee schedule.

International Moon Day 2023

8. The theme for 2023 has been “Beginning the New Lunar Journey for Humanity”.

9. The main event was organized on 20 July 2023, in Gwacheon, South Korea, and hosted by the National Science Museum of the Republic of Korea, with sponsorship by Lockheed Martin Corporation. At this Legal Subcommittee, the Moon Village Association shall present the results of the IMD 2023 and Outlook for 2024 in a technical presentation. Details of the date and time of this presentation will be indicated in the Legal Subcommittee schedule.

10. Forty-six global events were held in 41 countries. These events included Moon lectures, workshops, webinars, and telerobotics outreach activities as well as panel discussions. Most global events took place during the week of 20 July. The year 2023 saw participation from 42 countries, compared to 27 in 2022, marking a 55 per cent increase.

11. Details of the events are included in the “2023 International Moon Day Annual Report”. This can be downloaded at: <https://internationalmoonday.org/international-moon-day-2023-annual-report/>.

International Moon Day 2024 Outlook

12. The theme for 2024 is “Illuminating the shadows”, as more missions arrive at the Lunar South Pole, so does the mystery unravel and the shadows will be forever illuminated, thus, paving the way for mankind’s exploration and harvest of the Moon.

13. The main event to be held on 20 July 2024 will be in Harbin, China. This will be organized in cooperation with Harbin Institute of Technology and the Chinese Society of Astronautics. This event will involve stakeholders from all over the world, online and in person.

14. Delegations, Members and Permanent Observers are kindly invited to organize events in their countries to foster global cooperation in the lunar exploration. Proposals can be filled in, by replying to the call for global event posted on the IMD website: <https://internationalmoonday.org/call-for-organisers-international-moon-day-imd-2024-g>.