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Statement submitted by Space Generation Advisory Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2011/100.

Statement*

Investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education has the proven ability to develop and drive a nation's economy. While space technology has become ubiquitous in society, such as the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), many believe all space-related education and technology is an expensive endeavour reserved mainly for developed nations. While the construction of a spacecraft requires expertise and hardware resources, there are many space technology applications and data that can be valuable to the growth of developing nations. It is recommended that nations collaborate with non-governmental organizations to pursue the best STEM educational partnerships available for their citizens. The Space Generation Advisory Council in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (SGAC) is focused on cultivating the next generation of space leaders and increasing awareness of the educational and societal benefits of space technology.

Within SGAC, the project Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (YGNSS) aims to present to youth the benefits of global navigation satellite systems and how various such systems applications are able to benefit a nation's economy and society. Through participation in Working Group C (information dissemination and capacity-building) of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), YGNSS has supported the educational outreach of global navigation satellite systems applications by developing a brochure on them, conference papers, and informational notices for the SGAC network. YGNSS spreads the word that global navigation satellite systems can be used for precision timing, agricultural and disaster management, and a wide variety of items that need accurate positioning, navigation, and timing. The YGNSS group recommends that the international community continue to foster the education of global navigation satellite systems and the utilities of space technology. Young people are a key demographic in mastering tools and programmes that have stemmed from space technology and that will help improve their towns, regions and countries for years to come.

Investment in future knowledge is key. The Space Generation Advisory Council is committed to providing a network for university students and young professionals in the international space sector to collaborate and contribute their international knowledge and skills to foster development.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.