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High-level segment: annual ministerial review

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/2012/100.



Statement

The Space Generation Advisory Council fosters productive capacity, employment and decent work by contributing extensively to the educational and professional development of young adults across the globe. Direct and indirect international interaction among university students and young professionals is of primary importance to the organization. It is achieved through the initiation and support of various collaborative intellectual projects and the organization and co-sponsorship of high-profile international conferences. Over 30 scholarships are issued annually to ensure diverse conference attendance and to enable representation from the developing regions.

The organization views space as playing an essential role in making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, to everyone, thereby facilitating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. From the organization's perspective, space is a key means of offering new technologies on a truly global scale, thus enabling and incentivizing inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels everywhere.

The value of information and communication technologies in addressing the issue of poverty eradication simply cannot be overestimated. Satellite and wireless communication technologies empower millions throughout developing regions to emerge from poverty by facilitating access to microfinancing. Broadband Internet via satellite gives a chance to millions of people in rural areas to express their opinions and have a communications channel to the rest of the world. Telemedicine and tele-education, perhaps the most efficient tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, depend heavily on space infrastructure. Human and environmental security is ensured by fleets of remote-sensing satellites. The world's "eyes in the sky" are also the best mechanisms for building transparency and confidence. These are a mere subset of all of the benefits that space-based services provide to humankind.

The organization expresses the hope that space and its role in overcoming the obstacles on the road towards the achievement of the Goals will be given proper consideration and weight during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012. It is the organization's desire that the positive effects of space-based services on global development, as noted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/71 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, will be reflected in a ministerial declaration on promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.