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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Sixty-sixth session  
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023

**Proposal for assessing lunar coordination mechanisms  
within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Paper submitted by Romania**

**I. Introduction and Background**

1. Romania considers that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities should be of a permanent concern for all member States, for governmental and non-governmental space actors.
2. At the same time, the Romanian delegation considers that Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities must be extended to the activities conducted in connection with other celestial bodies, in particular to the Moon.
3. The number of government and private lunar missions multiplies every year, new piloted lunar exploration flights are scheduled to begin in 2025, and the implementation in the coming years of permanent lunar bases and cislunar space stations are part of the space programs declared by more than one state. Lunar exploration and exploitation will represent a very challenging space activity for the next decades, involving many member States and non-State actors.
4. The current lack of coordination mechanisms for lunar activities presents a serious challenge to future missions and could lead to conflicts, especially in light of the increased global interest in specific areas like the lunar south pole. The need to preserve the peaceful uses of space, together with the desire to begin a new era of sustainable space exploration, urges the development of a common level playing field for upcoming lunar activities.
5. The magnitude of the issues relating to the exploration and use of lunar and cislunar space is far greater than just Space Resources that are already addressed within the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. These issues include information-sharing, definition of safety zones, safe operations, debris mitigation, environmental and heritage preservation, interoperability, sustainability, coordination between scientific and commercial endeavors, and more.
6. Referring to the Conference Room Paper A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP20\*, including the report “Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities”, presented at the 60th session of Scientific and



Technical Subcommittee and distributed to all Member States by the Moon Village Association, the Romanian delegation is of the view that such issues require discussions at the level of the Committee. The report has been distributed also to the 66th session the Committee and it represents, in view of the Romanian delegation, a good base for further discussion and elaboration.

7. The Romanian delegation considers that the promotion of voluntary cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to lunar operations, including an official exchange of information between the stakeholders involved in Moon activities is of a critical importance at this time.

## **II. Proposal**

8. The Romanian delegation, in view of the complexity of the issues and the lack of time in the plenary meetings, is inviting all Delegations to assess how to coordinate lunar technical activities, within the Committee.

9. The Romanian delegation invites Delegations to report their findings and recommendations on specific arrangement for lunar coordination, if any, at the next Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2024 with the goal to agree on the next step for the 67th session of the Committee in 2024.

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