

Intervention of Romania on agenda item 15, “Space Exploration and Innovation”

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The delegations of Romania and Mexico have prepared the CRP14 that I present for your consideration, proposing at the next year’s session of COPUOS a one-year agenda sub-item “Coordination for Sustainable Lunar Activities” under the agenda item “Space Exploration and Innovation”. I want to express the motivation of this proposal:

The pace of launches to the Moon is increasing, 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.

We welcome the creation of the "Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities", assuming the commitment to support its work established in the work plan agreed within the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.

Nonetheless, the magnitude of the issues relating to the exploration and use of lunar and cislunar space is far greater, including information-sharing, definition of safety zones, debris mitigation, environmental and heritage preservation, interoperability, sustainability, coordination between scientific and commercial endeavors, and more. For a sustainable Lunar exploration and use we consider those urgent issues requiring discussions at the level of UN COPUOS to agree upon a common level playing field for all.

The initiators of this CRP are inviting Member States to approve the inclusion at the 66th COPUOS session, in 2023, under the agenda item “Space Exploration and Innovation”, of a one-year agenda sub-item related to “Coordination for Sustainable Lunar Activities”, to analyze the complexity and urgency of issues related to the Moon exploration and exploitation, to define the way forward and a possible mechanism to approach this topic at the level of UN COPUOS, taking into account the interests and initiatives of member states and observers to UN COPUOS in this domain.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!