

**Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC): Invitation to provide contributions from States members of the Committee on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team**

**Reference: OOSA/2024/48 - CU 2024/244, 2 September 2024, Invitation to provide contributions on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team**

*Contribution by Germany*

Germany welcomes the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) during the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in accordance with the proposal submitted by Romania and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.12/Rev.2). During the informal meetings leading up to the establishment of ATLAC, some delegations expressed the view that the ATLAC Bureau should be composed of both Artemis Accords and ILRS representatives. Germany supports such a balanced approach with two Co-Chairs, i.e. one Artemis Accords Signatory as Chair together with an International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) partner as the other Chair.

As highlighted by the German delegation under COPUOS agenda item 15 and during the UN Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities, there seems to be common ground among the Artemis Accords signatories and the partners in the International Lunar Research Station that space activities should be conducted in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner, and that information exchange is an important means of international cooperation and would be crucial to avoid interference and allow for appropriate international consultations on lunar activities. This common ground could be used by the proposed co-chairs as a positive starting point for constructive and fruitful exchanges to reach a common understanding within ATLAC.

It is a priority of our delegation to agree and present the Action Team's multi-year workplan for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025 (para. 11 ATLAC Methods of Work A/79/20, Annex IV). This agreement should be reached within the Action Team by early 2025, so that substantive discussions can begin as soon as possible. The Action Team is to have focused, expert-level exchanges to develop recommendations aimed at promoting and facilitating consultations among a diverse range of actors, related to lunar activities, considering different options, including, for instance, whether to recommend the establishment of an international mechanism (para. 1 ATLAC Mandate, A/79/20, Annex IV). We recommend that the work plan of the Action Team shall task it to:

- (a) Conduct an inventory of possible means and topics for promoting and facilitating consultation related to lunar activities, including through the establishment of an international mechanism for lunar activities consultation [hereinafter referred to as the international consultation mechanism];
- (b) Determine the scope and form of an international consultation mechanism and whether such a mechanism could be established with the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs;
- (c) Identify the actors to be involved and topics to be addressed by an international consultation mechanism;
- (d) Draft proposals for means to promote and facilitate consultations related to lunar activities, including through the establishment of an international consultation mechanism for consideration by the Committee, beginning from its sixty-ninth session, in 2026.
- (e) Produce a final report containing recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its seventieth session, in 2027, or at its seventy-first session, in 2028, as appropriate.

In order to make efficient use of time, the Co-Chairs of the Action Team should be assigned concrete work items for each year.

Germany reserves the right to submit more specific proposals in writing and/or to express such proposals at the forthcoming meetings of the Action Team.