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The Permanent Mission of India in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and, in reference to its Note Verbale No. OOSA/2024/48 dated 02 September 2024, has the honor to submit India's contributions on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC), which are enclosed to this Note Verbale.

2. The Permanent Mission of India in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Office for Outer Space (UNOOSA) the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
Vienna.



India's contributions on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)

At the initiative of Romania, the 67th session of COPUOS decided to establish ATLAC. Highlights of its mandate, terms of reference and methods of work, as agreed by COPUOS, are outlined below:

2. Mandate highlights:

- ATLAC to have expert level exchanges aimed at developing recommendations on improving consultations on lunar activities including on the need for establishing an international mechanism.
- Final report to be submitted to 70th session of COPUOS in 2027 or its 71st session in 2028.
- Following the endorsement of the report, COPUOS will decide on follow-up work to be carried out.

3. Terms of reference highlights:

- Participation open to all COPUOS members. Each Member State may appoint up to 4 representatives (the representatives can be replaced).

4. Methods of work highlights:

- ATLAC is to be established under COPUOS.
- It will work on the basis of consensus.
- It will report on its work under the agenda item "Future role and method of work of the Committee" of COPUOS.
- Its meetings will be held on the margins of STSC, LSC, COPUOS and during intersessional period.
- After establishment of ATLAC and at the proposal of Member States, COPUOS will approve Chair and Vice-Chair(s) of ATLAC. UNOOSA will appoint a rapporteur and secretary.
- Thereafter, ATLAC will develop and present multi-year work plan to 68th session of COPUOS in 2025 for endorsement.

5. Expert exchanges need to be initiated after the endorsement of ATLAC's workplan and completed by 2026. The consultations in 2027 will be on finalising the report, including recommendations, for approval by COPUOS in 2027 or 2028.

6. **The following suggestions for the workplan of ATLAC are in line with the multi-year work plans of the existing Working Groups of COPUOS:**

2025

- Invite views/ inputs from Member States on the workplan

- Invite views from Member States on improving consultations related to lunar activities, considering different options, including, for instance, whether to recommend the establishment of an international mechanism
- Members may be requested to provide inputs on the specific areas of lunar activities on which international consultations are required
- ATLAC to consult and agree on the final workplan
- Bureau and workplan to be endorsed by COPUOS

2026

- ATLAC to consult on the draft report
- Continue to invite views from Member States and update the draft report
- Present the diverse proposals to COPOUS
- Chair to prepare the final draft

2027

- ATLAC to consult on the final draft and agree on the final report and present to COPUOS
- If the ATLAC is unable to complete the final report, consultations may continue

2028

- Chair to prepare the updated final draft
- Consultations to continue and the final report be submitted to 71st session of COPUOS in 2028

7. As regards the bureau of ATLAC, in our view, technical expertise is required to lead the expert level exchanges as Chair and Vice-Chair(s). It is also important that Chair and Vice-Chair(s) continue in their respective positions for the mandate of ATLAC. Following discussions in the intersessional meeting in November 2024, UNOOSA may be requested to invite nominations from Member States for the bureau.

8. It will also be useful to hold the meetings of ATLAC in hybrid or virtual format to enable consistent participation of a range of stakeholders, especially experts from capitals who will add significant value to the discussions.

9. Listed below are some issues that merit further consideration:

- Need for an international mechanism as a forum for discussing lunar activities
- Possible formats for such a mechanism
- Topics to be discussed under such a mechanism, if formed