

Poland. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The proposal of the Republic of Poland on the preservation of lunar heritage sites and objects of significant scientific and historical interest on the Moon.

At the outset, it is crucial to reiterate that the Conference Room Paper on Proposal on a Consultative Mechanism on Lunar Activities (/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.18/Rev.1) indicates that the ATLAC is analysing pressing issues related to the lunar activities, proposing actions or solutions that should be taken in the field of: *“Preservation of sites of significant scientific interest and lunar heritage: The opportunity to share information regarding the nature and location of lunar sites of significant scientific or cultural significance will assist in the identification and preservation of such sites”*.

We would like to underline that Poland has suggested the issue of the preservation of the lunar heritage sites and objects of significant scientific or historical interest as one of the prioritised topics of the Action Team on Lunar Activities (the ATLAC) in its written submission of 31 October 2024, sent in response to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs’ Circular ref. no. OOSA/2024/48.

Additionally, the list of potential topics (vers. 7 February 2025) indicated the preservation of lunar sites of specific scientific interests (LSSSI) and preservation of human heritage on the Moon as one of priority topic to be addressed by the ATLAC.

It should be stressed that the issue of preservation of lunar heritage sites and objects of significant scientific and historical interest on the Moon is strictly related to the topics that are in the field of interest of the ATLAC such as information sharing, consultation on interference in lunar activities, lunar orbital and surface debris mitigation as well as awareness raising.

Information sharing regarding the location of lunar heritage sites and objects of significant scientific or historical interest would facilitate and assist in the identification and preservation of such sites and objects. Furthermore, information sharing and appropriate consultations regarding lunar heritage sites or objects and planned operations in their vicinity seems to be crucial for ensuring the preservation of human heritage on the Moon.

What seems desired is to take the opportunity that offers the ATLAC to integrate information sharing regarding the location of lunar sites and objects of scientific or historical significance to the practical tools to facilitate information sharing on lunar activities and to open-source database for lunar heritage localization and information.

Moreover, preservation of lunar sites and objects of significant scientific or historical interest seems to be connected with the topic of mitigation of lunar debris. The

identification of objects of significant scientific or historical interest for humanity would allow them to be separated from debris and to be preserved. What could seem desired in this scenario is the preparation of the criteria for distinguishing valuable objects.

The rapid technological development of the space sector and the multitude of missions planned might have the harmful impact on of lunar sites and objects of significant scientific or historical interest. From this perspective, it is advisable to start international dialogue about the lunar heritage in order to promote and share understanding of intergenerational responsibility to preserve the lunar heritage what would be a part of awareness raising issue.

Therefore, we recommend that the issue of preservation of sites and objects of significant scientific interest and historical value on the Moon be included among the priority topics of the ATLAC.