

Agenda Item 7: Future role and method of work of the Committee

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee,
Sixty—Fourth Session May 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates.

I would like to begin by expressing the sincere appreciation of the Republic of Korea to the two Co-Chairs and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for their unwavering efforts in guiding the ATLAC discussions.

The Republic of Korea strongly supported the establishment of ATLAC at the 2024 COPUOS plenary session and joined as a co-sponsor of the proposal led by Romania. Given the rapid growth in global lunar exploration activities, we believe that initiating discussions within the COPUOS framework to establish a strengthened consultation mechanism for safe, sustainable, and transparent lunar activities is both timely and of great importance.

In this regard, we hope to see substantial progress during this session towards reaching a consensus on the ATLAC Workplan, with the aim of formally adopting it at the 68th session of COPUOS. As a country actively engaged in lunar exploration, the Republic of Korea has experienced firsthand the crucial role of international coordination and consultation in ensuring the safety and sustainability of lunar activities.

As highlighted in our technical presentation at last year's COPUOS plenary session, Korea's lunar orbiter Danuri (KPLO) successfully conducted four collision avoidance maneuvers during its lunar orbit operation over the past two years. These maneuvers were made possible through the continuous sharing of orbital data and close collaboration with other lunar operators.

Through this operational experience, the Republic of Korea has come to recognize the critical importance of establishing communication channels and information-sharing mechanisms at the operational level, for they are vital to effective consultation and coordination for lunar activities. We hope that such issues will be included as priority topics in the ATLAC discussions.

To make meaningful contribution to the ATLAC discussions, the

Republic of Korea has nominated four representatives, whose names have been officially submitted to the UN Secretariat. We stand ready to contribute constructively to ATLAC's work and trust that our experience, lessons learned, and perspectives will provide valuable insights into this important effort.

Thank you. /END/