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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
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DRAFT TREATY RELATING TO THE MOON

Austria: proposal

Article X

1. The moon and other celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation by any claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.
2. Neither the surface nor the subsurface of the moon or other celestial bodies, nor any part thereof or natural resources in place, shall become property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, national organization or non-governmental entity of any natural person. The placement of personnel, space vehicles, equipment facilities, stations and installations on or below the surface of the moon or other celestial bodies, including structures connected with their surface or subsurface, shall not create a right of ownership over the surface or the subsurface of the moon or other celestial bodies or any areas thereof.

The foregoing provisions are without prejudice to the international régime referred to in paragraph 4 of this article.
3. States Parties have an equal right to the exploration and use of the moon and other celestial bodies without discrimination of any kind under the conditions stipulated in this treaty.
4. States Parties undertake to establish an international régime, including appropriate procedures, to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies when such exploitation becomes feasible.
5. In order to facilitate the establishment of the international régime mentioned in paragraph 4 of this article, States Parties shall inform the Secretary-General as well as the public and the international scientific community to the greatest extent feasible and practicable of any natural resources they may discover on the moon or other celestial bodies.

6. The main purposes of the international régime to be established shall be to ensure the orderly and safe development and rational management of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, to expand opportunities in the use thereof and to determine an equitable sharing by all States Parties in the benefits derived therefrom, taking into consideration, in particular, the interests and needs of the developing countries.

7. All the activities with respect to the natural resources of the moon or other celestial bodies shall be carried out in a manner compatible with the purposes, as specified in paragraph 6 of this article, of the international régime to be established.

8. A conference of all States Parties shall be convened by the depository governments at the request of one third of such States in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 4 of this article on the basis of the principle that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind, due regard being paid to the provisions of article V, paragraph 2, of this treaty.