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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Sixty-fifth session

Vienna, 1–10 June 2022

Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

Space exploration and innovation

**Proposal for inclusion of a yearly agenda sub-item
“Coordination for sustainable lunar activities” under the
agenda item “Space exploration and innovation”, at the
sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space, in 2023**

Conference room paper by Mexico and Romania

I. Introduction

1. Lunar exploration is witnessing an ever-faster proliferation of planned missions led by governmental and commercial stakeholders. In 2022 alone, more than six missions, from government and private entities, are planned to be launched to reach the lunar surface and/or the cislunar space. In 2023 and later years the rate of launches to the Moon will increase.

2. The growing interest in the Moon and specific areas such as the Lunar south pole highlight the need to create coordination mechanisms that allow a peaceful and sustainable exploration of the Moon. These mechanisms should be suitable for balancing the interests of diverse stakeholders (private and governments) and guaranteeing the full achievement of the freedom of exploration, access, use and scientific investigation of the lunar and cislunar space for all.

3. Numerous tools have been created in recent years to develop guidelines that guarantee coordination between stakeholders and the sustainability of activities in the peaceful exploration and use of the Moon for commercial and non-commercial purposes. Still, to date, there is no document agreed on a large scale at the broader international level that can balance existing interests and harmonize the dedicated tools.

4. We welcome the creation of, and offer the full support to, the “Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities”, under the agenda item entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration,

* A/AC.105/L.327.



exploitation and utilization of space resources” as indicated in [A/AC.105/1243](#), paragraph 255.

5. Nonetheless, the magnitude of the issues relating to the exploration and use of lunar and cislunar space is far greater than the legal aspects of space resource activities alone, i.e., information-sharing, definition of safety zones, debris mitigation, environmental and heritage preservation, interoperability, sustainability, coordination between scientific and commercial endeavours, and more. For a sustainable lunar exploration and use we consider those urgent issues requiring discussions at the level of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to agree upon a common level playing field for all, without overlapping with the work of the already established Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

6. The interest of all Member States, including developing countries, must be considered in this approach, even if developing countries may not be ready at this time to be directly involved in the planned lunar missions, they could play a significant role in the consensus-building for the lunar coordination.

II. Proposal to be considered by member States for inclusion of a one-year sub-item in the existing permanent agenda item “Space exploration and innovation” in 2023 at the sixty-sixth Committee session related to coordination for sustainable lunar activities

7. Taking into account the fast development of Moon programmes by national, international, public and private entities, the magnitude of the issues relating to the exploration and use of lunar and cislunar space, the necessity to do it in a coordinated and sustainable way, the interlinked complex technical and legal considerations, the initiators of this conference room paper are inviting member States to approve the inclusion at the sixty-sixth Committee session, in 2023, under the agenda item “Space Exploration and Innovation”, of a new yearly agenda sub-item related to “Coordination for Sustainable Lunar Activities”, to analyse the complexity and urgency of issues related to Moon exploration and exploitation, not overlapping with the work of the already established Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, and to define a mechanism to approach this topic at the level of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, i.e. the possible creation of a new working group on this topic, taking into account the interests and initiatives of member States and observers to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in this domain.
