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**Committee on the Peaceful****Uses of Outer Space****Sixty-seventh session**

Vienna, 19–28 June 2024

Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*

**Future role and method of work of the Committee****Draft mandate, terms of reference and methods of work for  
an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC)****Paper submitted by Romania and the Republic of Korea****I. Introduction and Background**

1. The near future will see a multitude of lunar missions through the efforts of both space agencies and private actors. To promote the development of safe, sustainable, and transparent lunar activities for peaceful purposes, Committee members should address a number of areas, including, but not limited to, how to share information on ongoing and planned missions, engage in consultations, enable interoperability, facilitate safety, engage in appropriate consultations to avoid harmful interference, protect the lunar environment, mitigate the creation of debris, share best practices and lessons learned, conduct capacity building, and identify common needs and concerns.
2. While there are many efforts for cooperation for lunar and cislunar activities, there is no dedicated mechanism to consider related issues within the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is the only body in the United Nations system with the explicit mandate to foster international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies for the benefit of all humanity.
3. At the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in February 2024, the Working Group of the Whole noted that informal consultations led by the delegation of Romania had been held on the establishment of an action team to study a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee. The Working Group noted that a mechanism could be established to consider the possibility of having a dedicated forum to further assess lunar and cislunar consultation activities. The Working Group requested the delegation of Romania to submit its proposal on the establishment of an action team within the framework of the Committee to the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session, in 2024, under the Legal Subcommittee's agenda item on the future role and method of work of the

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\* [A/AC.105/L.337](#).



Committee, for further discussion, so that the final decision could be made by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, in 2024 (A/AC.105/1307, annex 1, para. 9).

4. At the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Delegation of Romania submitted conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.18 entitled “Proposal on a Consultative Mechanism on Lunar Activities,” proposing the establishment, within the framework of the Committee, of an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). On 18 and 23 April 2024, Romania conducted informal consultations to gather feedback on CRP.18 from Member States. Switzerland express the wish to co-sponsor CRP.18 proposed by Romania, and it was improved and republished as document A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.18/Rev.1.

5. In light of the above, this paper outlines the mandate, terms of reference, and methods of work of the Lunar Action Team, based upon suggestions received by States during the informal consultations conducted at STSC and LSC. To enable focused discussions at the sixty-seventh session of the Committee in June, Romania, with support for UNOOSA, will host a virtual session for informal exchanges of views on this paper in early June. Ahead of this intersessional meeting, Delegations are warmly invited to review this paper and share any feedback they may have.

## **II. Mandate**

6. The Action Team shall have focused exchanges to develop recommendations aimed at improving consultations related to lunar activities, including for instance through the establishment of an international mechanism. The Action Team shall develop a final report with recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its seventieth session in 2027. Based on the progress of its work, the Action Team may present a draft proposal for initial consideration by the Committee at its sixty-ninth session, in 2026.

7. The Action Team may also complement its proposal with an annex listing priority topics relevant to its mandate that could be later addressed by its proposed international mechanism. The Action Team shall limit discussions on any substantive topic to what is necessary for the achievement of its mandate.

8. The work of the Action Team shall be without prejudice to relevant ongoing efforts within the framework of the Committee and its Subcommittees. In particular, the Action Team shall not duplicate, but rather complement, the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, including for example through informal collaboration and the mutual exchange of information.

## **III. Terms of reference**

9. Participation in the work of the Action Team shall be open to all States members of the Committee. Upon establishment of the Action Team, the Office for Outer Space Affairs shall invite States members interested in participating to appoint ordinarily a maximum of four official representatives serving as points of contacts, preferably with diverse backgrounds and expertise, without prejudice to the possibility of appointing ad hoc experts to participate in specific meetings.

10. Organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee conducting work related to the mandate of the Action Team, may be invited by the Action Team to participate in its meetings, either on a regular or ad hoc basis. Representatives from organizations with permanent observer status that are invited to participate shall be limited to one representative. As needed, the Action Team may also invite participation of recognized technical, policy, and legal experts, and any further entity whose support is deemed useful for its work.

11. To avail itself of expert inputs and take into account a diversity of viewpoints, the Action Team may invite written contributions on topics relevant to its mandate from organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, as well as industry, academia and civil society actors, and recognized technical, policy, and legal experts. These submissions should be a maximum of five pages in length.

12. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties shall be kept informed of the work of the Action Team and consulted periodically to ensure complementarity of the Action Team's efforts.

#### **IV. Methods of work**

13. The Action Team is established under the framework of the Committee. It shall work on the basis of consensus of its States members and shall report on the progress of its work at the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees under the item "Future role and method of work of the Committee".

14. The Action Team shall meet to advance its work both on the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees and during the intersessional period. All meetings of the Action Team shall be organised in a hybrid format to allow for inclusive participation and maximise the use of time.

15. The Office for Outer Space Affairs shall facilitate the work of the Action Team, including but not limited to providing substantive secretariat services and convening and facilitating meetings and informal exchanges, through available resources and at no additional costs to the regular budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

16. Upon establishment of the Action Team at its present sixty-seventh session, and at the proposal of States members, the Committee will approve the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Action Team. Thereafter, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will appoint a rapporteur and secretary to support the work of the Action Team and it will proceed by developing its multi-year workplan as appropriate.

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