

22 April 2024

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-third session
Vienna, 15-26 April 2024
Item 8 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)

Non-paper submitted by the Delegation of Romania

I. Background

1. 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 the importance of that matter and the desirability of having a dedicated forum to further assess lunar and cislunar coordination and 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 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).
2. 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," suggesting the establishment, within the framework of the Committee, of an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC).
3. On 18 April, the Delegation of Romania held informal consultations on the margins of the Legal Subcommittee to hear views from other delegations on the proposed Action Team. Some participants in the informal consultations expressed

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.326.

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appreciation for the proposal, as well as interest in work on a term of reference for the Action Team.

4. This non-paper outlines initial suggestions on a draft mandate and terms of reference of the Action Team. Initial feedback would be welcomed during the second informal consultations, to be held on 23 April 23.

5. In order to make the best possible use of the time available before the sixty-seventh session of the Committee, in June, further informal discussions could be led by Romania, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, during the intersessional period.

II. Mandate

6. The Action Team shall have focused exchanges on the establishment of an international mechanism to consult and coordinate on lunar activities and develop a proposal for consideration by the Committee at its seventieth session in 2027 at the latest. Based on the progress of its work, and in view of the urgency of the topic given the increasing number of lunar missions, the Action Team may decide to submit an initial proposal to the Committee at its sixty-ninth session, in 2026.

7. As part of its mandate, the Action Team shall also develop a list of priority topics for consideration by its proposed international mechanism, including but not limited to, capacity-building, transparency, safety, debris mitigation, object disposal and environmental sustainability. The Action Team shall limit discussions on substantive topics 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, and, in particular, will not duplicate the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

III. Terms of Reference

9. Membership in the Action Team Group shall be open to all States members of the Committee. Member States interested in participating shall inform the Office of Outer Space Affairs, appointing one or more representatives, ideally no more than four per State.

10. Upon establishment of the Action Team, its Members may invite organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee with a mandate related to the Action Team, and any further entity whose support is deemed useful for its work, to participate in its meetings, either on a regular or *ad hoc* basis. Representatives from all invited entities shall be limited to one.

11. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities shall be kept informed of the work of the Action Team.

IV. Methods of work

12. The Action Team shall work on the basis of consensus of its member States. It will meet on the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, reporting on the progress of its work under the item “Future role and method of work of the Committee”.

13. The Office for Outer Space Affairs shall facilitate the work of the Action Team, providing substantive secretariat services, including, but not limited to, convening and facilitating meetings and informal exchanges during the intersessional periods, based upon the availability of regular budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.

14. To ensure inclusiveness and effectiveness in its work, the Action Team shall welcome concise written contributions from organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, as well as representatives from industry and civil society, on topics relevant to its mandate. These submissions should be a maximum of five pages in length.

15. Upon its establishment, the Action Team shall elect its own Bureau and develop its own multi-year workplan.
