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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-first session
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

**Promoting the long-term sustainability of lunar activities
through good practices encouraging due regard to lunar
science and ethics**

The present conference room paper contains information received from the Committee on Space Research, For All Moonkind, International Astronomical Union, Space Generation Advisory Council, also on behalf of the Lunar Policy Platform. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.412](#)



Promoting the long-term sustainability of lunar activities through good practices encouraging due regard to lunar science and ethics

I. Summary

1. This paper outlines a joint civil society effort for the development of good practices encouraging the conduct of lunar activities with due regard to prime scientific interests and key ethical principles, with a view to promote their long-term sustainability.
2. Considering the possible relevance of this topic for future discussions under item 11 of the Subcommittee's agenda, the submitting organizations would warmly welcome any view on the outlined effort from all Member States and Observers.

II. Science and Ethics for the Long Term Sustainability of Lunar Activities

3. In light of the globally increasing interest in the exploration and use of the Moon by both public and private actors, ensuring the long-term sustainability of lunar activities is rapidly emerging as a key priority area for contemporary space law and policy making.¹
4. Given the scientific and cultural relevance of the Moon, the submitting organizations share the view that paying due regard to prime scientific interests and key ethical principles could play a key role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of lunar activities.
5. In this respect, the organizations submitting this paper are committed to promoting international cooperation, multi-stakeholder dialogue, freedom of scientific investigation, due regard, and respect of ethical principles, through their respective efforts in this area.²

III. Good Practices for Paying Due Regard to Lunar Science and Ethics

6. Given their shared interest in this topic, the submitting organizations intend to work together on a joint contribution leveraging their multi-disciplinary expertise and ensuring synergies among their respective efforts for the long-term sustainability of lunar activities.
7. This joint contribution would consist of suggested good practices for conducting lunar activities with due regard to prime scientific interests, particularly in special areas like the far side, as well as key ethical principles for environmental and heritage preservation.
8. To ensure an inclusive and representative outcome, the development of these good practices will be informed by a series of bilateral consultations open to all

¹ *Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its Sixty-sixth Session*, p. 44 (A/78/20).

² See, inter alia: *Protection of Astronomy and Science on the Moon*, International Astronomical Union, (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.X); *Lunar Policy Priorities for Safe and Sustainable Lunar Activities*, Lunar Policy Platform, available online (November 2023); *Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*, Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities, available online (February 2023); *Effective and Adaptive Governance for a Lunar Ecosystem*, Space Generation Advisory Council, available online (May 2021); *Human Heritage in Outer Space*, For All Moonkind, available online (January 2020).

interested actors, to be conducted by the Lunar Policy Platform (LPP) over the course of 2024.

IV. Conclusion

9. As relevant and appropriate, the submitting organizations will make sure to update the Committee on the evolution of their work, also in view of potentially submitting related results for possible consideration by the Committee in its 2025 cycle.

10. All Member States and Permanent Observers wishing to know more about the effort outlined in this paper are warmly invited to get in touch with the submitting organizations by contacting the Lunar Policy Platform at lpp@lunarpolicyplatform.org.
