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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
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Report of the Moon Village Association on the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities – Status/Plan

Paper submitted by the Moon Village Association

I. Introduction and Background

1. This report summarizes the definition, status, and planning of the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities (GEGSLA) proposed and hosted by the Moon Village Association (MVA). MVA, being a permanent observer of the Committee, has regularly informed the Committee and its Subcommittees of the progress of its activities.

II. The Global Expert Group for Sustainable Lunar Activities (GEGSLA)

2. The work of GEGSLA builds on the foundations laid by several recent key documents, including the MVA Best Practices, the Hague Building Blocks for the Development of an International Framework on Space Resource Activities, and the United Nations Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, but aims to extend those principles to provide more detailed recommendations and practical guidance.

3. Hence, GEGSLA will provide distinct and new directions for international cooperation to encourage the sustainability of lunar activities. The aim of the Group is to increase coordination mechanisms and individuate the present and future challenges of lunar missions, especially considering the increased global interest in specific areas like the lunar south pole.

4. The primary goal of GEGSLA meetings is to stimulate informal discussions to prepare documents to be brought to the attention of the Committee for further discussion and deliberation. The Group started its work with the kick-off meeting on 25 February 2021, creating the basis for increasing global coordination for a new era of sustainable space exploration.

5. The Group operated by consensus, and it was composed of members and observers who acted in their individual capacities. They are stakeholders in lunar



activities, including representatives from space agencies/government, industry, international organizations, academia and civil society.

6. The Group established four subgroups to facilitate its work and tackle the most pressing issues in the future of lunar exploration, namely: Information Sharing; Safe Operations and Lunar Environmental Protection; Interoperability; and Lunar Governance.

7. The Group is chaired by Dr. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania). Its members included 37 experts from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Israel, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

8. The Group included about 195 observers from more than 40 countries.

9. In 2022, the Group held different activities to promote GEGSLA objectives, details can be found on the relevant GEGSLA web page of the MVA website.

10. The Group completed its activities in December 2022 with the following deliverables:

(a) *A Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*; attached to this CRP and delivered to all delegations in a printed format;

(b) Annex 1 “Guidelines for lunar activity implementation and operations addressing information-sharing; safe operations and lunar environmental protection; compatibility and interoperability; and lunar governance” and annex 2 “A List of future Issues for sustainable lunar activities.” Both documents can be downloaded at: <https://moonvillageassociation.org/gegsla/documents/>.

11. MVA has already presented the Recommended Framework at the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP20* as well as at the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.31.

12. MVA is also pleased to inform delegations of the organization, with other permanent observers, of the side event: “International Lunar Coordination: a round table”. In this event the Recommended Framework document will be presented together with other activities related to international lunar coordination. This event will take place on Tuesday, 7 June at 18:00 CEST, in room CR-7, the agenda is included in the sixty-sixth session of the Committee web page.

13. The Framework Document is considered a starting point to urgently initiate a conversation on lunar coordination between delegations with the goal of establishing a permanent consultation body within the United Nations system, to de-risk future lunar activities, hopefully by 2024.

III. GEGSLA Operational Phase

14. Considering the importance of the GEGSLA activities and following recommendations by its members, starting 1 January 2023, GEGSLA has started an operational phase. The first meeting took place on 31 January and the second on 16 May. The third meeting is planned on 6 September and will focus on industry lunar programmes and their position related to the Recommended Framework as well as to International Lunar Coordination in general. Working Groups have been set up to extend the coordination beyond the participants. Details of the work plan for 2023 can be found on the relevant GEGSLA web page of the MVA website.

15. The goals of the operational phase are to promote consideration and implementation of the Recommended Framework produced by the Group, with a

special focus on discussions conducted within the Committee as well as exchange information on ongoing lunar missions.

16. In this phase, there is no distinction between Members and Observers. There are only Participants in the Group. The Group consist of major stakeholders in lunar activities, including representatives from space agencies/government, industry, international organizations, academia, and civil society. Participants are over 200 former Members and Observers of the Group and will act on a personal basis. Any views expressed at the meetings or by the Group do not represent the position of organizations to which the participants may belong. Moreover, the Group already includes new participants from large scientific organizations like COSPAR, and more participants are invited to join.
