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Author: Mrs. Tanja Masson-Zwaan
International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Prof. René Lefeber
The Netherlands
Dr. Giuseppe Reibaldi
Moon Village Association (MVA), Austria
Ms. Dimitra Stefoudi
Leiden University, The Netherlands

THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL SPACE RESOURCES GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP: FINAL
PROGRESS REPORT

Abstract

The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group was established in 2016 with the purpose of setting the baseline for a potential framework on space resource activities, as well as recommending implementation strategies in this regard, through a diverse multi-stakeholder platform. In fulfilling its tasks, the Working Group achieved a major milestone with the “Draft Building Blocks for the Development of an International Framework on Space Resource Activities”, which were made publicly available in September 2017. This draft version consists of nineteen points for consideration for a future framework on space resources and were broadly discussed and amended in subsequent meetings of the Working Group. This paper will present and analyse the final version of the building blocks, providing at the same time insights on background discussion that led to the formation of the final text. It will also include recommendations with regard to the appropriate forum for negotiation of a framework on space resources and implementation policies for such potential framework. Except from the legal aspects, the paper will also address the technical and socio-economic extensions of space resource utilisation, as identified by the respective Working Group panels. Lastly, it will summarise the activities of the Working Group since its establishment and describe the way forward until its conclusion at the end of 2019. All authors are closely involved with the creation and activities of the Working Group.