

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)  
International cooperation on the way to the Moon and Mars (2)

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THE LEGAL BASIS UPON WHICH FUTURE MARS AND MOON SOCIETIES MAY SECEDE INTO  
SOVEREIGN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL STATES.**Abstract**

Humankind is returning to the Moon and heading with some certainty towards Mars for the first time. In both cases, the intention is ultimately to establish settlements to sustain a permanent human presence on those bodies. Given this intention, the settlements could develop into multi-generational ones with the emergent result of new cultures being developed, distinctly different from those found on Earth. Various futures are possible where two extremes might emerge. On the one extreme, Lunar and Martian settlements may remain permanently connected to Earth with a steady flow of crewed and cargo flights and constant communication. On the other extreme, the connections might be intermittent and could taper off to breaking point with little if any contact between the two worlds. Under both circumstances the new extra-terrestrial societies could decide that independence from Earth is desirable, as has taken place throughout colonial history on Earth. This study endeavors to establish the current and future probable international legal basis upon which self-determination could take place and what that would mean for international relations on Earth and between the Earth and these new worlds.