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THE GLOBAL EXPERT GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE LUNAR ACTIVITIES (GEGSLA)
CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL LUNAR GOVERNANCE DEFINITION

Abstract

The current lack of coordination mechanisms for lunar activities presents a serious challenge to future missions and could lead to dangerous conflicts, especially in light of the increased global interest in specific areas like the lunar south pole. The need to preserve the peaceful uses of space, together with the desire to begin a new era of sustainable space exploration, urges the development of a common level playing field for upcoming lunar activities. A number of issues must be addressed to ensure sustainable lunar exploration and settlement in and around the Moon, including, for example, mitigating the creation of debris in lunar orbit, defining standards to enable interoperability, and regulating access to natural resources. In view of the above, Moon Village Association proposed the creation of a neutral forum for multi-stakeholders discussions on lunar exploration and utilization: the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities (GEGSLA). The goals of the GEGSLA are to prepare materials to submit to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), where the MVA has permanent observer status, to support the Committee's discussions and deliberations on critical issues surrounding increased lunar activity. The main deliverable of GEGSLA will be the "Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities". GEGSLA was initiated in 2021 and it is planned to complete its activities by end 2022 with the delivery of the above document at the 2023 COPUOS Plenary meeting. The paper will present the status of GEGSLA, its planning and its contribution to peaceful lunar exploration and settlement.