



## PROJECT PLAN

# Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities Operational Phase - 2024

### 1. Introduction

The near future will see a multitude of lunar missions through the efforts of both space agencies and commercial stakeholders. 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 2020, the Moon Village Association (MVA) took an initiative to address these critical issues with the goal of de-risking future lunar missions and increasing global cooperation for lunar exploration and settlement. Therefore, the MVA decided to promote the development of a neutral forum for multi-stakeholder discussions on lunar exploration: the *Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities* (GEGSLA). The Group was composed of members from Space Agencies, Government, Industry, International Organizations, NGOs, Universities and Research Centers. The public was also involved via a public consultations.

The activities of the Group started in February 2021, and were completed by the end 2022 with the publication of the report: “*Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities*”. This report also includes Annex-1 related to Guidelines for the implementation of the key elements, as well as the Annex-2 related to future issues.

The report has been distributed, at large, including at the UN COPUOS and all major international fora. This has enabled MVA to actively promote dialogue and engagement concerning Lunar Governance matters within the United Nations. This comprehensive dissemination of the report has not only ignited substantial discussions on Lunar Governance issues in major global forums but has also underscored the topic's growing significance on the world stage.

The Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, and organized by the UN General Assembly, will provide an additional opportunity to champion the Framework document issued by GEGSLA and underscore the critical role of Lunar Governance in promoting peaceful and sustainable development on Earth, further solidifying its



global significance

The above activities underlines the importance of preserving the existence of GEGSLA to support implementation of the Recommended Framework as well as discussions on lunar issues and exchange relevant information about the different lunar ongoing projects.

This Project Plan defines the GEGSLA activities planned in 2024.

## 2. Terms of Reference

The goals of the GEGSLA operational phase is to promote consideration and implementation of the Recommended Framework produced by the Group, with special focus on discussions conducted within the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) as well as the UN General Assembly.

The support to these discussions is possible since MVA has permanent observer status within UN COPUOS.

In order to achieve its goals, the Group intends to:

- i. Engage with UN COPUOS and UN General Assembly, via the Summit of the Future, to present and support deliberation of the Recommended Framework and its evolution
- ii. Periodically gather its participants to exchange information about the implementation status of the Recommended Framework and its Annexes.
- iii. Define ad hoc Working Groups to deal with transversal issues like, inter alia, Environmental Protection.
- iv. Endorse and collaborate on complementary initiatives that align with the Recommended Framework, in cooperation with pertinent stakeholders engaged in such efforts within UN COPUOS or other international forums (e.g., the Summit of the Future).
- v. Act as a neutral platform to exchange information and views as well gather experience from ongoing lunar missions and relevant key issues between lunar stakeholders for the peaceful and sustainable conduct of lunar activities.
- vi. Bring key issues identified by the Group to the attention of UN COPUOS for further discussion and deliberation.
- vii. Leverage contributions from major stakeholders of the space community, including space agencies, private companies, academia, and international organizations.
- viii. Involve the public by promoting outreach efforts regarding the activities of the Group through the involvement of local actors at the global level.

## 3. Participants

Participants of the Group are major stakeholders in lunar activities, including representatives from space agencies/government, industry, international organizations, academia, and civil society. Participants of the Group will participate on a personal basis and any views expressed at the meetings or by the Group do not represent the position of organizations to which members may belong.

## 4. Platform for the Group

The activities of the Group are hosted by the Moon Village Association, with the possibility of creating various *ad hoc* consortia at a later stage as the Group sees fit.



## 5. Management of the Group

The Expert Group will be serviced by a Secretariat embedded in the MVA. The Secretariat consists of the Group’s Chair, the three Vice-Chairs, the Executive Secretary, and relevant management support, called Implementation Support Officer (ISO). One Vice-Chair will be drawn from each stakeholder group: government, industry, and academia. The Executive Secretary is the President of the Moon Village Association.

The Secretariat liaises with the participants of the Group, maintain a dedicated webpage and social media, organize meetings, lead discussions, and prepare documents.

The Chair, the Vice-Chairs, or Executive Secretary represents the Group in external events.

Most of the activities will be carried out through electronic means (email, conference calls, etc.).

With the agreement of the Group’s participants, face-to-face meetings may be held during events, such as the IAC or MVA Annual Workshops, or other major events.

## 6. Working Groups

In order to conduct more focused discussions and develop appropriate solutions for the different issues involved in lunar activities, the Group has decided to create the following working groups:

WG1: “Lunar Environmental Protection”

WG2: ”Lunar Technical Coordination”

WG3: “Lunar Multistakeholder Coordination”

The participants to these WGs are included in Annex 1.

## 7. Interface with other organizations

GEGSLA has reached out to many international organizations, like COSPAR, and several are already involved.

In particular, COSPAR Sub-Commission B3 exists specifically to promote international cooperation in all areas of lunar science ([Committee on Space Research \(COSPAR\) » Scientific Commission B: Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System \(cnes.fr\)](#)).

In the year 2023, GEGSLA convened a series of roundtable discussions involving various organizations, such as the Secure World Foundation, The Hague Peace Institute, Open Lunar Foundation, and the Space Generation Advisory Council. These collaborative endeavors are anticipated to persist and expand throughout the year 2024.

## 8. Participants

GEGSLA participation is open to experts from all the world. By 2023, the total number was more than 200, however is still possible to request to join the organization, as is indicated on the relevant GEGSLA webpage in the MVA website: [www.moonvillageassociation.org](http://www.moonvillageassociation.org).

To keep the total membership to a manageable number to hold calls/meetings a request for participation will be issued 3 weeks before the call/meeting. The secretariat will implement the required actions to



held a viable calls/meetings

The Chair, Executive Secretary and Management Support do not count as participants. Participants have the right to attend calls, to speak at calls, to submit proposals and to participate in decision-making.

## 9. Sponsors

Sponsors are individuals or organizations that financially contribute to the activities of the Group. The Sponsors will be recognized in all public events and may be invited to take part in a consortium created to coordinate global events to inform the public and decision-makers in their country about the progress and the results of the Group. A sponsor is participant of the Group by default.

The sponsors will be informed of the expenditures that will be duly documented and audited.

The following tier level of sponsorship are suggested:

1. **Bronze Sponsorship (€2500):** This level of support includes recognition and basic benefits, such as a logo placement on promotional materials, limited access to event content, and acknowledgment during the event.

2. **Silver Sponsorship (€5000):** Sponsors at this level receive prominent recognition and additional benefits, which include a larger logo placement, increased access to event content or sessions, and a dedicated acknowledgment during key moments of the event.

3. **Gold Sponsorship (€7500):** Gold sponsors receive elevated visibility and privileges. Benefits include extensive logo exposure, premium access to event content, dedicated promotional activities such as a social media post highlighting your organization, and prominent recognition during the event's various sessions and activities.

4. **Platinum Sponsorship (€10000):** Platinum sponsors receive the most comprehensive benefits, including premium logo placement, exclusive access to VIP events or speakers, tailored promotional opportunities such as a social media post highlighting your organization, and top-tier recognition throughout the entire event. Plus early access to secure a speaking opportunity at the International Moon Day Event on 20 July.

These sponsorship tiers offer organizations varying degrees of involvement and recognition, allowing them to choose the level that best aligns with their budget and objectives for supporting the event or initiative. Customized benefits are available upon request and approval.

## 10. Schedule

The Group will hold 4 meetings per year online through Zoom or another teleconference service or face-to-face meetings organized by participants. Meetings online will typically last for two hours maximum. The tentative schedule for the major milestones is the following:

- **17 January 2024**, prepare for the upcoming session of the UN STSC;
- **May 2024**, prepare for the upcoming session of the UN COPUOS;
- **August 2024** prepare for the upcoming Summit of the Future;
- **December 2024** to wrap up the year and plan for 2025

Please note that this schedule is provisional and will be adjusted by the Secretariat as appropriate depending on the activities of the Group or other circumstances.



## 11. Outcome

The Group will carry out the following activities:

- Establish and operate the Group as a dynamic platform to foster and sustain relationships among stakeholders with a vested interest in lunar activities, while actively facilitating the implementation of the Recommended Framework.
- Foster discussions related to lunar matters within the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), as well as actively engaging in dialogues at events like the Summit of the Future, organized by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Arrange and host a series of outreach activities, including webinars and workshops, designed to disseminate knowledge and insights on lunar governance and related topics to a wider audience, thereby promoting greater awareness and understanding.
- Manage and regularly update the GEGSLA webpage, ensuring it serves as a comprehensive resource hub for all relevant information pertaining to the Group's mission and activities. Additionally, utilize social media platforms to disseminate agreed-upon content generated by the Group, thus enhancing its outreach and impact.

## 12. Budget

The Expert Group operates mainly on the basis of contributions in kind from stakeholders, that is, they provide manpower and some limited financial contributions. Considering that the majority of the activities will be conducted in a virtual mode, it is expected that the participants of the Expert Group shall pay for their own expenses, if any. Any exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and specific sponsors will be sought.

## 13. Contributions

The financial resources required to carry out the project shall be provided by the sponsors. A letter has been already sent to some potential sponsors and more actions will be initiated soon.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Composition of GEGSLA Working Groups**

## WG 1: Lunar Environmental Protection

Co-chairs		
Name	Organization	Country
Jean-Claude Worms	COSPAR	France
Ian Crawford	Birkbeck University of London	UK
Members		
Name	Organization	Country
Alice Gorman	Flinders University	Australia
Anne-Sophie Martin	Institute for International Legal Studies (ISGI-CNR)	Italy
Aya Farag	Faculty of navigation science and space technology	Egypt
David Kendall	Outer Space Institute	Canada
Edvaldo Silva	CESMAC University Centre	Brazil
Farah Diya Yasmine	Space Generation Advisory Council	Indonesia
Flavia Alvim de Carvalho	EJUSP and PUC Minas	Brazil
Frank Koch	Orbit Recycling	Germany
Marc Fournier	SNCF / La Paillasse	France
Naresh Kannan	University of Rostock, Germany	United Kingdom
Oscar Mario Fernandez	Space Ranger, Queen Bee Machine, SGAC, MVA NCCRC, MVA LEC WG	Costa Rica

## WG 2: Lunar Technical Coordination

Co-chairs		
Name	Organization	Country
Timothy Cichan	Lockheed Martin	USA
Marchel Holle	iSpace	Japan
Members		
Name	Organization	Country
Arvind Ramana	Australian Space Agency	Australia
Carlos Mariscal	Dereum Labs	Mexico
Clara Richard	ICAD/DSI/SGAC	Spain/UK
Ekaterina Seltikova	Technical Unit Research for a Thriving Lunar Ecosystem, SGAC	France
Hassan ABOUSEADA	Egyptian Space Agency	Egypt
Laura Champion	Lockheed Martin	United States
Madison Feehan	Space Copy / NASA	Canada
Omolade Odetara	Leanspace	France

Suzanne Gillen	Redwire	USA
Prof. Dr. Bernd J. Hoefler	A9C Capital WLL, Bahrain / DiMOS Operations GmbH, Germany	Bahrain
Shreya Santra	Department of Aerospace Engineering, Tohoku University	Japan
Tufan Kayaci	Turkish Space Agency (TUA)	Türkiye

### WG 3: Lunar Multi-stakeholder Coordination

Co-chairs		
Name	Organization	Country
Mark Sundahl	Cleveland State University	USA
Yu Xu	Foreign Ministry of China	China
Members		
Name	Organization	Country
Alper Oren	Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics, Eskisehir Technical University	Turkey
Christophe Bosquillon	Autonomous Space Futures Ltd	Greece
Dennis O'Brien	The Space Treaty Project	USA
Dr. Antonino Salmeri	Lunar Policy Platform	Spain
Gennaro Russo	Italian Institute for the Future	Italy
Irina Chernykh	RUDN University	Russia
Itir Toksöz	Dogus University	Turkey
Kesniel Bravo	Mexican Space Agency	Mexico
Lars Petzold	European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)	Austria
Parameswaran Sreekumar	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	India
Setsuko Aoki	Keio University Law School	Japan
Malak Trabelsi Loeb	Vernewell Group	UAE
Lilith Salisbury	Leiden University, Space Court Foundation, SGAC	United Kingdom
Olusoji Nester John	United Nations African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E)	Nigeria
Soyoung Chung	KARI	South Korea
Natalia Lemarquis	GMV Innovating Solutions	United Kingdom
Dr. Márcia Alvarenga	Brazilian National Institute of Space Research - INPE	Brazil