



Methods of Work and Plan

Introduction

1. 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 challenges to future missions and could lead to potential harmful interference, especially in light of the increased global interest in specific areas like the lunar south pole. The Moon Village Association (MVA) took the initiative to address these critical issues with the goal of advancing safe and sustainable lunar missions and operations by increasing global coordination and cooperation for lunar exploration and settlement. In 2020, 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)*.
2. The Expert Group is embedded in the Moon Village Association but serviced by a Secretariat. The Secretariat consists of the Group's Chair, three Vice-Chairs, the Executive Secretary, and relevant management support.
3. The Group is chaired by Dr. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania), with the support of three Vice-Chairs: namely Dr. Rajeswari Rajagopalan (India), Dr. Alice Gorman (Australia), Mr. Kyle Acierno (Japan).
4. The goal of the GEGSLA is to prepare materials to submit to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), where the MVA has permanent observer status, to support the Committee's discussions and deliberations on critical issues surrounding sustainable lunar activities.
5. Group is composed of members and observers. They are stakeholders in lunar activities, including representatives from space agencies/government, industry, international organizations, academia, and civil society. The public will be kept informed with regular webinars.
6. The number of members is limited for all stakeholders, with the exception of space agencies/government.
7. The Secretariat has issued guidelines for the participation of members and observers.
8. Participants of the Group will act on a personal basis, and any views expressed at the meetings or by the Group do not represent the position of organizations to which participants may belong.

Method of Work

1. The deliverables of the Group will be a framework document containing principles, and key elements, with annex 1 that includes technical guidelines and annex 2 that includes issues for further discussion, that provides guidance and reference to design, development, and implementation of lunar activities under the recommended framework.
2. The working title will be “Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities”.
3. Substantive decisions within the Group will be taken by its members. As a general rule, the Group will operate by consensus.
4. Observers will be invited to attend meetings, but their interventions will be managed at the invitation of the Chair. The number of observers for any given meeting may be restricted depending on the capacity of the communication platform used. Inputs and proposals from observers will be taken into account at the discretion of the members. Observers will receive all documents distributed within the Group. There is no restriction on the overall number of observers to the Group.
5. The Group may decide to establish sub-groups to facilitate its work. Sub-groups will be composed of members, but observers will be invited to organize themselves in order to provide streamlined inputs to the members at each meeting. Membership will seek wide and multi-disciplinary representation.
6. Sub-groups will decide their methods of work, including the ways of engagement with observers. Sub-groups will report to the Group on their work progress at least every 3 months.
7. The Chatham house rule will apply to the discussions within the Group.
8. The working language of the Group will be English.
9. The Secretariat will liaise with the members/observers of the Group, maintain a dedicated website and social media, organize meetings, facilitate discussions, and prepare summary notes of the meetings as well as required documents.
10. The activities of the Group will be carried out through electronic means (email, conference calls), and the Group plenary meetings will be held on a monthly basis.
11. The Slack platform will be used as an effective system to exchange documents and information. Members are encouraged to use it; however, the official communication method will be emails.
12. The online Google document system will be implemented to increase the efficiency of document changes. For members that have difficulty with access to this system, alternative methods will also be used.
13. With the agreement of the Group’s members, face-to-face meetings may be held during major events, such as the IAC or MVA Annual Workshop in 2021 or 2022.
14. In addition to the primary deliverables to be submitted to UNCOPUOS; the Group will also seek to develop and maintain dialogue with other space exploration related bodies in which lunar governance and coordination are discussed, most notably the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). The Group may decide to ask the Secretariat, or designated members, to share the deliverables with ISECG and COSPAR. The Group will seek opportunities to brief ISECG and COSPAR as appropriate.

Workplan (2021-22)

2021

- (a) The Group will agree on its method of work and work plan.
- (b) Before or at the latest at its third meeting, the Group will agree on a draft outline/definition of the GEGSLA deliverables based on the ideas exchanged and any further consultations with its members. This document will include Guidelines for lunar activities implementation to be developed by its related sub-groups.
- (c) The document will be used as the starting point for further elaboration in the framework of GEGSLA activities.
- (d) MVA, as an observer organization of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), will inform the 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC), 19-30 April 2021, the 60th session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC), 31 May-11 June 2021, the 64th Session of (UNCOPUOS), 25 August - 3 September 2021, and other relevant bodies, of the GEGSLA creation and expected deliverables.
- (e) MVA will organize, in cooperation with sponsors or other organizations, regular webinars to explain to the public, including other space exploration-related bodies (e.g., COSPAR, ISECG), the status and plan of GEGSLA.

2022

- (a) The Group and its subgroups will produce a draft of its deliverables by its first meeting of 2022.
- (b) The Group will inform the status of its deliverables and related guidelines respectively at the 59th STSC and the 61st LSC. MVA will invite the Member States of UNCOPUOS to consider adding the sustainability of lunar activities as a new agenda item at the 65th Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Session. This is because the issue includes interlinked complex technical and legal issues. This should allow the start of a dedicated WG in 2023.
- (c) The Group will finalize the Report of its activities which will be submitted by MVA together with the adopted deliverables to the 60th STSC, the 62nd LSC, and 66th UNCOPUOS in 2023.
- (d) The Group will decide whether the work plan should be extended to cover potential future work or refer certain follow-on activities to MVA or other international platforms.