[May 5th, 2025]

English only

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-fourth session
Vienna, May 5 –16, 2025

Lunar Policy for Peace, Safety, and Sustainability on the Moon

Paper submitted by Open Lunar Foundation and Lunar Policy Platform Foundation

I. Summary

1. This paper is jointly submitted by the Open Lunar Foundation, a U.S. 501c3 and permanent observer to the Committee, and the Lunar Policy Platform Foundation (LPP), a Dutch non-profit and *ad hoc* observer to the 64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee.

2. Open Lunar Foundation, an independent non-profit organisation, is committed to safeguarding a peaceful, cooperative, and sustainable lunar future. Aligned with UNCOPUOS objectives, the Foundation translates open standards into concrete policy and infrastructure, combining governance design, legal scholarship, and advanced technology to develop shared lunar utilities.

3. The vision of LPP is a prosperous, peaceful, and cooperative future on the Moon for the benefit of all humanity. The mission of LPP is to help create a conducive policy environment by connecting with all stakeholders to facilitate the collaborative setting of priorities, policies, and standards for peaceful, safe, and sustainable lunar activities.

4. LPP's distinctive feature is the creation of inclusive, holistic, and focused policy documents developed via an innovative, multi-layer, and stakeholder-driven consultative process. Every year, LPP conducts extensive, bilateral, in-depth interviews with a diverse group of organisations from all over the world to gather views, identify common ground and diverging points, and assess a practical way forward. All interviews are conducted under Chatham House rules designed to facilitate the participation of all interested actors.

5. All views collected during LPP's consultations are then analysed by its expert team and transposed in initial drafts that are shared back with all participants for their feedback across multiple iterations. This process ensures that all documents developed by LPP are rooted in the views of all consulted stakeholders and representative of common ground between them.

6. All policy documents developed by LPP Foundation via its consultative process are published online in perpetual open access, and can be freely used by all interested parties.

7. After three years of groundbreaking work as an international initiative incubated by Open Lunar, in 2025 LPP established a global, non-profit, non-governmental, foundation registered in The Netherlands and officially called "Stichting Lunar Policy Platform".

8. Open Lunar and LPP Foundation continue to collaborate for the development and implementation of a conducive policy environment to support international cooperation in the peaceful, safe, and sustainable exploration and use of the Moon for the benefit of all, including through LPP's proposed *Lunar Policy Decalogue.*

9. Both Open Lunar and LPP recognise COPUOS as the leading multilateral body in charge of global space governance, and wish to support its crucial work for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, for the benefit of all.

10. At the 64th session of the LSC, LPP has submitted an accreditation request as *ad hoc* observer to witness its important and timely discussions, provide a concise update on its activities in this paper, and understand from Member States how it can best support the crucial work of the Committee in the future, including through the potential submission of an application as permanent observer at the 68th Session of the Committee in June.

II. Overview of LPP's Work

11. In 2023, LPP published the first Report to ever identify which policy priorities need to be addressed in order to enable the peaceful, safe, and sustainable development of the Moon. To reflect the existing diversity of policy viewpoints in this area, the *Lunar Policy Priorities Report* has been developed in consultation with over forty organisations from all continents and backgrounds.

12. Following the same methodology, in 2024, LPP published a *Lunar Policy Snapshot*, the first and only document to outline key lunar developments that occurred in a given year, present the views of different actors on them, and provide an expert assessment of related implications on lunar policymaking in 2025 and beyond.

13. LPP is also committed to supporting capacity building through educational events. At the 67th Session of COPUOS in 2024, LPP co-organised a side event titled *Reflections on the UN Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities: Priorities and Capacity Building*, to reflect on the outcomes of the excellent Lunar Conference organised by UNOOSA and further present the results of LPP's 2023 Priorities Report.

14. At the 2024 World Space Forum in Bonn jointly organised by UNOOSA, Germany, Perù, and the United Arab Emirates, LPP hosted a side event titled *Lunar Policy Trends and Futures*, to present its 2024 Policy Snapshot and exchange views with all actors attending the event which areas it should focus its policy work in 2025.

15. All documents developed by LPP Foundation are published online in perpetual open access for the benefit of all, and can be freely used by all interested parties. All documents can be downloaded from LPP's website at https://lunarpolicyplatform.org/, which also provides further information on the work of LPP, its network, and services.

III. 2025 Focus Areas

16. Building upon the findings of the 2023 Priorities Report and 2024 Policy Snapshot, leveraging the feedback collected at the World Space Forum side event last December, and thanks to the continuing support of Open Lunar, in 2025 LPP has decided to focus its policy work on two main areas: lunar information sharing, and lunar science and ethics.

17. In the area of lunar information sharing, LPP is working to help streamline relevant purposes, legal bases, mechanisms, and limitations, as well as identify potential practices and principles to build trust, ensure safety, and promote sustainability of lunar activities.

18. In the area of lunar science & ethics, LPP is working to identify scientific, cultural, and ethical interests in lunar exploration, clarify their implications on the conduct of other activities, and help evaluate principles and practices for a balanced approach..

19. Following its established methodology, in the first three months of 2025, LPP has conducted extensive bilateral consultations with over 50 organisations from all over the world to gather their views on these important topics.

20. The goal of the consultations is to collaboratively develop two voluntary reference documents providing a concise overview of the views expressed and identifying concrete next steps for peaceful, safe, and sustainable lunar activities.

21. Based on the views expressed so far, LPP has drafted the initial versions of the two documents and shared them with the participants to the consultations for their feedback. LPP would also be pleased to share the two draft documents with any interested State or Observer.

22. Upon reviewing the comments received, LPP will develop a second version of both documents, aiming to release it in mid June for a second round of feedback, with a view to finalise them between August and September 2025.

23. Both documents on lunar information sharing and lunar science and ethics are designed to complement and support the work of COPUOS, particularly the Working Group on the Five United Nations Treaties and the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultations.

24. If these topics are of interest to the Committee, LPP would be pleased to present an update on both documents at the 68th Session of COPUOS in June, to receive feedback from all State Members of the Committee and Observers interested in these topics, and help build capacity in lunar policy.

25. Further to these two areas, LPP is also collaborating with world-leading institutions and experts on an International Lunar Resources Prospecting Campaign (ILRPC) to promote a rational and sustainable approach to the exploration and use of lunar resources.

V. Conclusion

26. This paper provided an initial overview of LPP's lunar policy work. With the support of Open Lunar, over the past three years LPP has been engaging with a diversity of actors globally to understand their views and help identify priorities. Building upon these foundations, LPP is now focusing on supporting the development of policies and standards enabling peaceful, safe, and sustainable lunar activities.

27. The methodology of LPP is inherently cooperative and all actors are welcomed to contribute. LPP fully upholds the role of COPUOS as the leading multilateral body in charge of space governance and would be pleased to support the work of the Committee in accordance with its rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices.

28. At the 64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee, LPP will be represented by Dr. Antonino Salmeri, Chairman of the Foundation, who would be delighted to meet with all interested actors to share expertise, exchange views, and explore ways in which LPP may be of help to State Members of the Committee.

To get in touch with LPP Foundation, please email foundation@lunarpolicyplatform.org or directly contact antonino@lunarpolicyplatform.org to set up a meeting during LSC.