

Statement

on the occasion of the Signing of the Artemis Accords by the Republic of Austria

Austria declares that the Artemis Accords reaffirm the commitment of the signatories to the peaceful, responsible, and sustainable exploration and use of outer space in accordance with the United Nations Outer Space Treaties, in particular the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, and the UN Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines). Based on our signature, we will actively engage in the exchange of ideas among Artemis Accords signatories to strengthen the application of the United Nations Outer Space Treaties in the context of activities in cislunar space and beyond, including on celestial bodies.

Austria will carry out its activities as an Artemis Accords signatory in accordance with its obligations under international law, in particular all five United Nations Outer Space Treaties, and with due regard to the relevant interests of all other States and regional organisations.

The 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies (Moon Agreement) in particular contains valuable basic principles for space activities in connection with the Moon and other celestial bodies. As a State party to this Agreement, Austria continues to advocate for its ratification. The international regime for the exploitation and utilization of natural resources called for by the Moon Agreement continues to be a goal of Austrian space policy. Irrespective of the creation of this international regime, the Moon Agreement also envisages the opportunity to use lunar resources in appropriate quantities to support space missions for scientific investigation.

In Austria's view, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) is the primary multilateral body to promote the progressive development of international space law for the peaceful uses of outer space. Additional cooperation formats, such as the Artemis Accords, can enrich and complement the important work of UNCOPUOS. Austria will continue to actively promote multilateral cooperation, in particular at the United Nations, and to vigorously support the work of UNCOPUOS and its subcommittees with regard to the governance of space activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies and the use of space resources.