



## **International Lunar Decade and UN Sustainable Development Goals**

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The International Lunar Decade (ILD) is proposed as a framework for international cooperation in lunar exploration and development from 2021-2030 modeled on the International Geophysical Year (IGY - 1957-8) that marked the dawn of the space age with satellites launched by the U.S.S.R. and the US. As with IGY the global initiative will be coordinated by a small secretariat with countries, international organizations such as COSPAR, NGOs, universities, cities and regions, and private firms participating. ILD is intended to open opportunities for small and developing countries to take part as well as the larger spacefaring countries that are already actively involved in lunar exploration. The ILD fits well with the goals and the approach of the UN Space 2030 initiative that is presently under development by UN COPUOS which is preparing a plan for Space 2030 with UN General Assembly approval expected at the 2020 Session.

The ILD is intended to lead to sustainable presence on the Moon by 2030. The ILD framework will enable the development of policies for use of lunar resources as well as to govern operations on the Moon by multiple parties. The ILD framework will also enable joint development of shared energy and logistics infrastructure as well as public outreach programs worldwide as well as information sharing.

A concept will be presented for cooperation between the European Union and the African Union and their member states and state and regional organizations towards advancing sustainable development through cooperation in space technology and space operations as a model for cooperation between advanced and developing countries. The dimension of lunar exploration and lunar development and the potential for technology transfer to meet sustainable development on Earth will be highlighted.