

Statement on the occasion of the German Artemis Accords Signature

Germany has a long history of successful international cooperation in science and space exploration for peaceful purposes, both within ESA and beyond with its international partners. In the spirit of this ongoing collaboration, the signature of the Artemis Accords by the German Space Agency at DLR strengthens the common goal of DLR and its international partners to pursue programs for astronautical and robotic exploration of space.

On the occasion of the Accords signature, the following shall also be expressed:

The Artemis Accords are a non-binding political declaration expressing a common understanding on mutually beneficial practices among the Artemis programme partners for the future exploration and use of space. They 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 Outer Space Treaty, and the UN Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines). Based on our signature, we will also actively engage in the exchange of ideas among Artemis partners to strengthen the application of the Outer Space Treaties in the context of activities on celestial bodies.

We carry out all our activities under the Artemis programme on the basis of international law and in accordance with the imperative of international cooperation. In this spirit, we will conduct all activities with due regard to the relevant interests of all other States and to the avoidance of contamination, in particular by developing and implementing measures to protect science, the explored space environment and the Earth.

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the central multilateral forum for the further development of space law. Germany will continue to support the development of a binding international legal framework for activities on celestial bodies on the basis of the UN Outer Space Treaties, in particular as a basis for the use of space resources and for an improved exchange of information on space activities between all States Parties.

It is a matter of concern to us to bring in our contributions made to and the experience and expertise gained through the Artemis programme to multilateral cooperation, in particular also at the United Nations, to pave the way for the safe, sustainable, equitable and peaceful use of celestial bodies, based on shared fundamental convictions such as the rule of law, international cooperation, information sharing, sustainability and peaceful purposes.

Recognizing the benefits to all mankind of cooperation in peaceful space exploration, science and commerce, we seek enhanced coordination and cooperation among established and emerging space actors.