

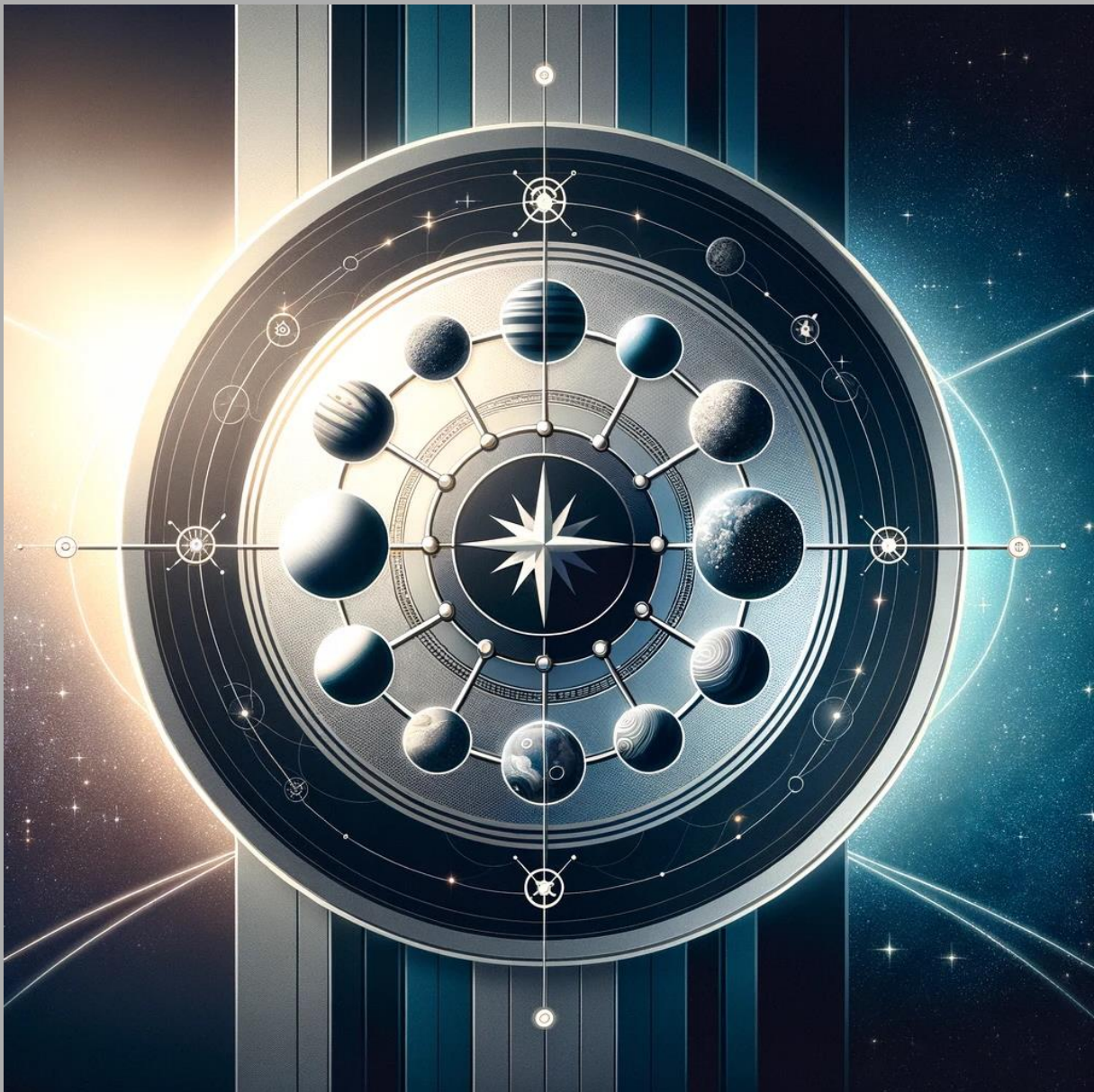
# The future of multiplanetary governance - developing a space council

**Edited by:**

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Humanity is at a turning point: as we continue to reach for the stars and expand our capabilities for colonizing and exploring other planets, we must also face the challenge of how to shape the future between Earth and other celestial bodies in a just, sustainable and innovative way. A central instrument for this could be the Space Council - an international institution operating based on a Multiplanetary Constitution.

But how can such a Space Council be organized, which members should be part of it, and how can we ensure that it does not become an elitist event?

## **The Organization of the Space Council**

The Space Council could be structured as a kind of “multiplanetary security and sustainability council,” with clear responsibilities for coordinating activities between Earth and other planets, as well as setting norms that apply to all planetary members.

### **Main organs:**

**General Assembly:** A forum in which all planetary members (Earth, Mars colonies, moon stations, etc.) are represented. Each member receives one vote to promote equality.

**Executive Council:** A smaller body that manages day-to-day operations and makes decisions on urgent matters. The composition should rotate to avoid concentrations of power.

**Advisory bodies:** Scientists, NGOs, companies and representatives of the world's indigenous cultures could serve in an advisory capacity to contribute knowledge, perspectives and innovations.

**Digital participation:** A worldwide and spacewide network could be created to give citizens a voice regardless of their location (Earth or colonies). AI-supported platforms could help to analyze data and prioritize proposals.

**Financing:** Transparent and sustainable financing, e.g. through a small fee on the extraction of space resources or through voluntary contributions from planetary members and companies.

## **Members of the Space Council**

A just Space Council should include a wide variety of actors:

**Sovereign states:** Countries of the Earth with active space programs (e.g., US, China, India, EU states) as well as those indirectly affected, such as coastal states that could be affected by space activities in their environment.

**Planetary colonies:** Official representatives of future Mars, Moon and asteroid stations. These colonies should have an autonomous voice, independent of the states that originally founded them.

**International organizations:** UN institutions such as UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs) or a future institution specifically for space law.

**Private sector:** representatives of space companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin and other relevant companies.

**Civil society:** NGOs, scientists, philosophers and indigenous communities, who can often provide a different perspective on sustainable development and resource use.

## **Avoiding an elitist event**

To ensure that the Space Council does not only serve the interests of powerful states or companies, the following mechanisms are necessary:

**Rotating mandates:** Executive council seats should change regularly to ensure that all members are represented.

**Transparency:** Public meetings, independent reporting and access to documents must be guaranteed.

**Participation:** A citizens' platform could provide direct feedback from the population of all planetary members.

**Accountability:** The council should be reviewed by an external body to prevent abuse of power.

## **Decision-making powers of the Space Council**

The Space Council would have extensive but clearly defined powers:

**Resource management:** Regulation of the mining of raw materials on other planets and asteroids to prevent over-exploitation.

**Environmental protection:** Creation of rules to minimize environmental damage caused by space travel and colonization.

**Conflict resolution:** Mediation in disputes between planetary members, companies or states.

**Technology regulation:** Setting standards for technologies used between planets to ensure safety and fairness.

## **Securing planetary representation**

To ensure that all planetary members are adequately represented, the following measures are crucial:

**Autonomy of colonies:** Mars or moon colonies must not be treated as an “extension” of states, but must have their own rights and representation.

**Consideration of minorities:** Perspectives of indigenous groups and less developed states of the world must be actively included.

**Futures research:** The council should actively invest in scenario development to consider the needs of future generations.

## **Looking ahead**

Developing a space council could be one of the greatest challenges and most exciting opportunities of our time. By taking an inclusive, transparent, and regulated approach, we can ensure that space exploration and settlement benefits not just a select few, but all of humanity - and even future generations on multiple planets.

The Planet Futures Organization is committed to advancing this vision through research, dialogue and partnerships. Together, we can lay the foundation for a multi-planetary future based on equity, sustainability and innovation.