

From National Citizen to Cosmic Citizen

Layered identities, participation across domains, and the structure of rights and responsibilities in interstellar civilization

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Expanding the dimensions of identity does not mean leaving one's homeland behind. It means extending the boundaries of “we” to a wider community of life and civilization.

Version note

This edition retains the original core propositions of a “four-stage transition” and “layering rather than replacing identities.” It distinguishes legal identity, civilizational identity, and participatory identity anew. It removes the proposition that registration under a private agreement automatically confers legal status as a world citizen or cosmic citizen, and removes language about exchanging Contribution Value for basic rights, global resource rights, and voting rights in civilizational affairs.

The four-stage model is revised to: national citizen; participant in regional and cross-border communities; Earth citizen; cosmic citizen. European Union citizenship remains one real-world example of a regional layered identity, but is not presented as a universally necessary stage for humanity.

Cosmic citizenship is first a civilizational awareness and a capacity to participate across domains. Corresponding institutions and legal identities may develop gradually only as communities spanning multiple celestial bodies take shape. No organization, platform, or covenant can independently issue a “cosmic passport” that overrides states and lawful public institutions.

What can exist now is civilizational awareness, educational participation, participation in lawful projects, and related research. Specific global resource rights, interplanetary voting rights, cosmic passports, and legal identities spanning multiple celestial bodies must all be established by future lawful public institutions. They cannot be conferred independently by a private platform, project, or this manuscript.

Theoretical maturity: The four-stage layered identity model ranges from L2 structural hypothesis to L3 institutional theoretical framework. Actual legal status for cosmic citizens, rights spanning multiple celestial bodies, and interplanetary governance remain long-term explorations. Publication status: Public research draft; not current law, an international agreement, or an authorized citizenship scheme.

Primary level: A public-facing main-narrative interface for the civilizational, institutional, and long-term exploration levels. This manuscript starts from real-world questions concerning states, public institutions, cross-border cooperation, interstellar missions, and governance across multiple celestial bodies. Its validity does not depend on cosmological or metaphysical propositions.

Manuscript level, maturity, and public boundaries

Introduction | Why citizenship needs to expand rather than be replaced

National citizenship remains the most mature and reliable foundation for legal rights and public responsibilities today. Through states, individuals obtain nationality, legal protection, social security, public services, judicial remedies, and political participation. Interstellar civilization does not require states to disappear or individuals to relinquish their specific cultural, historical, and legal affiliations.

Yet AGI, global risks, cross-border resources, planetary defense, deep-space exploration, and future societies spanning multiple celestial bodies extend some consequences, responsibilities, and forms of participation beyond any single state. Citizenship therefore needs additional dimensions: instead of using an abstract global identity to abolish national identity, it should build regional participation, awareness of an Earth community, and responsibility for cosmic civilization upon national identity.

A person can simultaneously be a family member, a community member, a national citizen, a participant in cross-border communities, an Earth citizen, and a cosmic citizen. These identities differ in legal force, scope of participation, and sources of responsibility. They cannot be conflated into a single credential.

Chapter 1 | Three identities: legal, participatory, and civilizational

Identity type	How it is formed	Principal content	What it cannot automatically confer
Legal identity	Recognition by a state, regional community, or future multi-celestial-body institution possessing lawful public authority	Defined rights, obligations, judicial remedies, and public responsibilities	Private organizations cannot independently grant global or cosmic legal citizenship
Participatory identity	Joining lawful projects, Nebula communities, research networks, resource cooperation, and public protocols	Participation in information, tasks, resources, and decisions within a defined scope	Sovereignty, personality-related data, or unlimited resource rights beyond authorization
Civilizational identity	An individual's conscious sense of belonging, responsibility, shared destiny, and future horizons	Layered belonging and responsibility at national, Earth, cosmic, and other levels	Self-identification alone cannot require others to recognize specific legal privileges

At present, cosmic citizenship is primarily a civilizational identity. It can also develop into a participatory identity through interstellar science, resources, education, planetary defense, and Nebula projects. Only when future societies spanning multiple celestial bodies mature might formally legal institutions of cosmic or multi-celestial-body citizenship emerge.

Chapter 2 | Four layers of identity

Stage	Identity foundation	Core rights and capabilities	Core responsibilities	Institutional maturity
Stage 1: National citizen	Nationality, law, and national public institutions	Domestic rights, welfare, judicial remedies, political participation, and public services within the territory	Obey laws, undertake public responsibilities, and sustain specific communities	Mature, existing legal identity
Stage 2: Participant in regional and cross-border communities	Treaties, mutual recognition, projects, or regional institutions layered upon national identity	Cross-border residence, study, work, research, public services, or project participation; the specific scope varies by institution	Follow shared rules, bear cross-border responsibilities, and respect differences among members	Existing forms in some regions
Stage 3: Earth citizen	Awareness of humanity's shared destiny, Earth's ecology, and global risks	Participate in global public issues, research, ecology, AI governance, planetary defense, and humanitarian cooperation	Responsibility toward Earth's life, future generations, and shared global risks	Mainly civilizational identity and project participation

Stage	Identity foundation	Core rights and capabilities	Core responsibilities	Institutional maturity
Stage 4: Cosmic citizen	Awareness of the universe as home, interstellar participation, and future communities spanning multiple celestial bodies	Participation in cross-space missions, interstellar resources and public affairs, remote presence through Spark, and future institutional rights across multiple celestial bodies	Protect unknown life, limit resource appropriation, and bear intergenerational and interstellar responsibilities	Currently civilizational identity and preparatory institutional research

Chapter 3 | Stage 1: National citizens and the indispensable legal foundation

National citizenship does not lose its significance with the emergence of world-citizen or cosmic-citizen awareness. States continue to bear responsibilities for law, public finance, infrastructure, public safety, borders, education, healthcare, social security, and major risks.

- States are among the units with the strongest practical capacity to authorize and bear responsibility for Contribution Value, resource pools, AI governance, and Civilization Leap experiments today.
- National judicial and administrative systems remain important safeguards for rights appeals, tracing responsibility, and institutional rollback.
- When global or interstellar systems fail, states and local communities may still provide individuals with their most immediate structures for survival and legal protection.
- National identity must not be hollowed out in the name of a civilizational community; nor may sovereignty be invoked to deny shared cross-border risks.

The core of Stage 1 is not to confine people to the perspective of a single national border, but to ensure that expanded identity rests on reliable legal protection.

Chapter 4 | Stage 2: Regional and cross-border participation, with mutual recognition before unification

Regional and cross-border participatory identities can form through treaties, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, research networks, public-service cooperation, regional markets, cross-border city networks, and Nebula projects. European Union citizenship is one existing example, but not the sole path that every region must replicate.

The key lesson at this level is that identities can be layered, institutions can recognize one another before coordinating, and participation rights must be accompanied by compliance, responsibility, and appeal mechanisms.

Principle	Meaning
Layered identity	Add cross-border rights and participation without automatically cancelling national citizenship and legal protection
Limited mutual recognition	Establish interfaces for identity, qualifications, data, resources, and responsibility in specific fields without requiring complete institutional unification
Reciprocity and difference	Different countries and regions may retain institutional, cultural, and policy differences
Lawful authorization	Cross-border projects cannot use technological platforms to replace the statutory responsibilities of states and public bodies
Exit and correction	Mutual-recognition mechanisms must allow suspension, revision, appeals, and exit

Chapter 5 | Stage 3: Earth citizens, the human community, and responsibility for Earth

Earth citizenship is first a civilizational awareness: humanity inhabits the same planetary ecological, technological, and risk networks. A state's major technological, ecological, or security choices may have cross-border and intergenerational consequences.

Earth citizenship does not depend on registration with a platform or automatically confer global legal privileges. It develops gradually through education, public discussion, international cooperation, global research, planetary defense, humanitarian action, ecological governance, and minimum common safety interfaces.

5.1 Principles for joint governance by humans and AGI

The original manuscript's "Carbon-Silicon Covenant" is retained as a historical conceptual source. This manuscript does not use it to create a new formal covenant name. Instead, "principles for joint governance by humans and AGI" describes the minimum boundaries requiring further research today:

- At present and for the foreseeable future, humans retain the highest decision-making weight over civilization's fundamental direction.
- AGI may analyze, advise, execute, and act autonomously within authorization, but cannot declare that it has acquired civilizational sovereignty.
- Individuals' basic survival, personhood, bodies, private domains, and appeals are not conditional on Contribution Value.
- High-consequence systems must be auditable, subject to takeover, equipped with circuit breakers, reversible through rollback, and accountable.
- If new genuine subjects and forms of life emerge in the future, their rights and responsibilities must undergo long-term real-world examination and independent institutional research.

5.2 Public participation at the Earth level

Earth citizens can participate in transnational issues through states, international mechanisms, research communities, city networks, public bodies, and Nebula subdomains. The scope of participation rights is determined by the matter concerned, authorization, degree of impact, expertise, and real-world responsibility. It cannot simply arise from a single global registration.

Chapter 6 | Stage 4: Cosmic citizens, a sense of home, and participation across multiple celestial bodies

Cosmic citizenship is not a cosmic passport issued in advance by an organization. It is a layered identity gradually formed through awareness of the universe as home, interstellar participation, civilizational responsibility, and future institutional rights.

A person need not physically leave Earth to become a cosmic citizen. Through Spark, digital counterparts, authorized intelligent physical terminals, and cross-space communities, people can participate in lunar construction, Mars research, asteroid-resource exploration, deep-space culture, interstellar education, and civilization's long-term missions.

Cosmic citizenship means that Earth is our homeland and the universe our larger home; interstellar resources are not ownerless objects for unlimited appropriation; unknown life is not material awaiting classification and exploitation; and future generations and remote communities have rights that today's centers of power cannot arbitrarily override.

Chapter 7 | Cosmic citizens' rights, capabilities, and responsibilities

Dimension	Principal content
Civilizational rights	Retain national, cultural, family, and homeland identities; personhood and basic rights must not be diminished because one stays on Earth or refuses an interstellar mission
Participation rights	Participate in cross-space research, resources, culture, education, governance, and public missions under lawful authorization
Subject rights	Authorizations for Spark, digital counterparts, and terminals can be viewed, withdrawn, and restricted; platforms do not own them
Rights to a life	Obtain conditions for basic survival, private space, relationships, culture, rest, play, and happiness in interstellar missions and communities spanning multiple celestial bodies
Governance rights	Receive information, expression, appeal, review, and appropriate decision-making participation in matters affecting oneself
Civilizational responsibilities	Protect unknown life and environments, limit irreversible development, and bear intergenerational consequences and responsibility for actual repair
Community responsibilities	Respect local autonomy, cultural differences, and later generations' right to change the rules

Chapter 8 | Boundaries between Contribution Value, resource use, and cosmic citizenship

Contribution Value can carry records of real action, resource access provided, knowledge, care, maintenance, risk-bearing, and actual outcomes in cross-regional and cross-planetary missions. It cannot become a personality score for cosmic citizens or determine basic survival, education, healthcare, and personal dignity.

8.1 Layering contribution records

- Record only specific subdomains and events, without creating a permanent overall personality score spanning every field.
- Input, intention, and registration do not automatically equal contribution. They must undergo retrospective verification of actual use, outcomes, harm, and repair.
- Contribution records are nontradable and are not monetary assets.
- Different spatial domains, missions, and communities can mutually recognize facts through minimum interfaces without permanent unified weights.
- Individuals can view, question, correct, and appeal records concerning themselves.

8.2 Person-years as a reference for resource capacity

A “person-year” can provide an intuitive reference for how many people a category of resources can support and for how long, for use in basic-resource capacity, reserves, and allocation across space. It is not a person's value and does not automatically become a universal unit for every contribution.

8.3 Rights to interstellar resources

Cosmic citizenship does not confer personal ownership of the known universe's resources. Exploration, development, use, and allocation of interstellar resources must distinguish public risks, development inputs, actual use, protection of ecology and unknown life, local community needs, and long-term civilizational responsibilities.

Chapter 9 | Multilevel governance: One person, one vote is not the whole answer

Governance in a future civilization spanning multiple celestial bodies cannot rely solely on unified online voting. Communication delays, local environments, professional complexity, state responsibilities, and individual rights require multilevel autonomy, classification of matters, and minimum civilizational interfaces.

Matter	Principal decision makers	How cosmic citizens participate
Individual body, personhood, private domain, and digital extensions	The subject concerned	Information, consent, withdrawal, appeal, and final personal decision
Daily affairs of local bases and communities	Locally affected subjects and lawful bodies	Local participation, rotation, hearings, and public deliberation
Specialist high-consequence matters	Specialists, those bearing real responsibilities, affected subjects, and statutory bodies	Evidence-based deliberation, comparison of alternatives, and tracing responsibility
Major national affairs	The state's statutory decision-making system	Participation under each country's institutions; interstellar mechanisms cannot independently exceed their authority
Shared interplanetary risks	Minimum joint-governance mechanisms among nodes, states, and communities	Asynchronous deliberation, preauthorization, review, veto, and emergency interfaces
Civilizational baseline matters	Human rights-bearing subjects at multiple levels and future recognized civilizational subjects	At the present stage, humans retain the highest decision-making weight and final veto

Under long communication delays, the highest human decision-making weight does not mean real-time remote control from Earth. Humans retain civilizational sovereignty by setting objectives, inviolable boundaries, authorization scope, autonomy levels, review cycles, and termination conditions. Remote Nebula communities and AGI can be highly autonomous within that authorization.

Chapter 10 | Mechanisms for civilization's survival across multiple nodes and its interstellar continuity

The original manuscript's “Interstellar Backup Protocol” captured the importance of survival across multiple nodes, but civilization cannot be reduced to copies of data. This manuscript uses “mechanisms for civilization's survival across multiple nodes and its interstellar continuity” as a descriptive research topic. It is not yet a formal protocol name, legal text, or actual institution.

Component	What must be carried forward
Life and ecology	Human life, ecological diversity, life-support systems, and protection of unknown life
Resources and production	Food, water, energy, materials, manufacturing, maintenance, and long-term cycles
Knowledge and culture	Science, languages, art, history, local memories, and transmission of multiple cultures
Institutions and rights	Personhood, private domains, local autonomy, appeals, repair, and civilizational baselines
Education and care	Children's development, healthcare, eldercare, psychological support, families, and relationships
Humans and AGI	Joint governance, permissions, responsibilities, audit, takeover, and long-term coordination

Component	What must be carried forward
Civilizational memory	Contributions, errors, harm, repair, and later generations' right to reinterpret

Backups can preserve the past. Civilizational continuity must also allow new life, relationships, culture, happiness, and meaning to continue coming into being.

Chapter 11 | Cosmic-citizen education and personal development

Cosmic citizenship cannot simply be declared by an institution. It requires sustained educational support, including the real night sky, Earth as homeland, complex systems, cross-cultural understanding, technology and the boundaries of reality, conflict repair, interstellar happiness, ethics toward unknown life, and self-generation of meaning.

The Universe Is Home 3.0 provides this educational framework. It does not select an elite, establish a Watchkeeper class, or permanently record students' contributions and shadow sides. Cosmic-citizen education aims to give ordinary lives the capacity to remain whole, live happily, share responsibility, and continually create meaning across greater spans of space and time.

Chapter 12 | From Earth civilization to interstellar and cosmic civilization

Earth civilization becomes interstellar not simply by possessing spacecraft and tools with greater reach, but when whole lives and civilization can continue to live, cooperate, create, and repair themselves across multiple celestial bodies, routes, and deep-space nodes.

Moving further from interstellar to cosmic civilization means beginning to understand civilization's place in the universe anew: not equating technological advantage with unlimited rights of appropriation, treating unknown life as a resource, or declaring current human rules the universe's final order; instead, maintaining humility, awe, coexistence, and self-calibration as power grows.

The universe is home. Earth is the homeland of human civilization; the universe is the larger home in which life and civilization unfold together.

Conclusion | A passport issued by the stars can only be a civilizational metaphor

The original manuscript used “four passports” to describe national, regional, world, and cosmic identities. This metaphor may be retained, but its limits must be clear: the first three have varying degrees of real institutional grounding, whereas a cosmic passport is primarily a civilizational metaphor today, not a legal document that any organization can independently issue.

National citizenship locates a person in the real legal world. Regional and cross-border participation expands the space for cooperation. Earth citizenship brings an understanding of shared ecology and risks. Cosmic citizenship brings the awareness that one belongs not only to today's Earth, but also to the unfinished future of life and civilization.

Each expansion of identity does not abandon the previous layer, but gives it wider space, longer horizons, and deeper responsibility. A person can cherish their country and homeland while regarding the universe as home; reach distant places through Spark without losing real relationships; and participate in interstellar resources and civilization-building without declaring unknown worlds their property.

What the stars issue is not a passport conferring privilege, but a reminder: the farther civilization travels, the more it must remember where it began, why it continues, and how it must treat its companions, those who come later, and lives it has yet to encounter.

Chapter 13 | Levels of statements, validation paths, and further reading

13.1 Four types of statements

Category	Content in this manuscript	Boundary
Real-world foundations	Legal national citizenship, some regional layered identities, cross-border research and public cooperation	Dynamic institutional and legal conditions must be reverified before formal publication
Theoretical judgments	Identity expands through layering rather than replacement; states remain important foundations for legal responsibility	Open to criticism from law, political science, international relations, and public governance
Structural extrapolations	Institutional participation by Earth citizens, cross-space Spark missions, and multilevel governance under long delays	State assumptions; do not present these as actual institutions
Long-term explorations	Legal cosmic citizenship, citizenship across multiple celestial bodies, and governance of cosmic civilization	Must not become prerequisites for the validity of current resource, rights, and engineering proposals

13.2 Validation and research paths

1. First study existing facts of layered participation in national law, regional identities, cross-border projects, and international cooperation.
2. In Nebula Startup Edition validation experiment zones, validate only lawfully authorized participation across subjects, resource interfaces, digital authorization, and appeals. Do not pilot fictitious cosmic legal identities.
3. Establish distinct rights, responsibilities, exit routes, and data boundaries for cosmic-citizen education, interstellar research participation, and participation in remote missions.
4. Research into governance across multiple celestial bodies should use scenario analysis, long-delay simulations, counterexamples, and failure conditions, without describing simulated outcomes as validated institutions.
5. Any proposal for institutionalization must enter joint research involving states, law, international relations, spaceflight, AI governance, and affected subjects.

13.3 Further reading

- For the educational, mental, relational, and everyday foundations of cosmic citizenship, see The Universe Is Home 3.1.
- For Nebula's startup, connection, and validation, see Nebula Startup Edition V1.1.
- For the overall structure through which whole lives and civilization enter interstellar space, see Nebula Panorama Edition V1.0.
- For civilization's long-term self-renewal, intergenerational continuity, and interstellar continuation, see Civilizational Perpetuity in the five-volume Civilization Leap series and related research.
- Metaphysical questions and questions about more distant forms of subjects belong in a separate deep-reading or internal research track; they must not be imported back into this manuscript.

Further reading and collaborative research | P07-CITIZEN-001 | V2.1

Continue from this manuscript

These entry points follow the natural sequence of questions raised here without repeating the system explanations already in the body. All lead to current stable manuscript pages at www.civitas.top.

This manuscript's website page

<https://www.civitas.top/en/documents/p07-citizen-001/>

<https://www.civitas.top/en/documents/p07-citizen-001/>

01 The Universe Is Home 3.1

Develops the mental, relational, educational, and civilizational sense of home needed for whole lives and civilization to enter interstellar space.

<https://www.civitas.top/en/documents/p07-home-001/>

02 Emergent Meaning Cosmology: Academic Edition

Provides a philosophical account of meaning-generation as deep theoretical research, without constituting a prerequisite for the public main narrative.

<https://www.civitas.top/en/documents/p08-cosmo-002/>

03 Emergent Meaning Cosmology: Validation and Applications Volume

Provides a philosophical account of meaning-generation as deep theoretical research, without constituting a prerequisite for the public main narrative.

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