

FOR ALL MOONKIND – AGENDA ITEM 3
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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Madame Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives, it is an honor and privilege for me to submit this statement on behalf of For All Moonkind to the 60th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. For All Moonkind is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. We are the only organization in the world committed to preserving human heritage in outer space. Our mission is to assure that historic lunar landing sites and similar sites in outer space are recognized for their outstanding value to humanity and consequently preserved and protected for posterity as part of our common human heritage. We seek to achieve this objective by promoting the development of protocols and guidelines – and ultimately, a binding Convention – that balances development and resource utilization with the recognition, protection, preservation or memorialization of human heritage in outer space.

We continue to attract volunteers of all ages, including college, law and graduate students eager to contribute to and advance our important mission. Many of us were not born when humans made their first forays to the Moon. Luna 2 reached the Moon in 1959. It would take ten more years before Neil and Buzz took their first steps on the lunar surface. Nor were we alive when Eugene Cernan traced his daughter's initials on the lunar surface and became the last human to leave a print on the Moon. Nevertheless, his words inspire me and my generation for their truth and their hope. He said that one of the most significant things we can think about when we think about Apollo is that it has opened for us—'for us' being the world—a challenge of the future. The promise of the future, he said, lies in young people, not

just in America, but young people all over the world learning to live and learning to work together.

We take these words to heart. We know how important it is to recognize and protect the sites that bear witness to humanity's courage and audacity. Protecting our history inspires our future. Protecting our history is also required to assure the sustainability of outer space activities. The ability to maintain the conduct of space activities indefinitely into the future in a manner that realizes the objectives of equitable access to the benefits of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, in order to meet the needs of present generations while preserving the outer space environment for future generations requires one foundational element: international cooperation.

It is the goal of For All Moonkind to foster this international cooperation. Many believe that this collaboration and cooperation will be difficult to achieve in today's political climate. We do not. Certainly, the agreement on the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities proves that consensus is achievable. But looking farther afield, and to history, one area in which the nations of the world find themselves in agreement is with respect to the protection of cultural heritage.

The World Heritage Convention protects such heritage here on Earth. It is one of the world's most ratified treaties because it is well-understood that global recognition helps to build a sense of community among peoples throughout the world. As we focus on a future in, or tied to space, we need to embrace this sense of kinship and community more than ever. Identifying, recognizing and celebrating cultural heritage in outer space as our shared human heritage will build unity, universality and sustainability. It can even provide a framework for deconflicting space resource utilization activities.

For All Moonkind has enjoyed a number of milestones since we last addressed this Subcommittee in 2019. Chief among our successes is the signing into law in the United

States of the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act. For All Moonkind made substantive contributions to the development and drafting of this legislation which is the first of its kind by any nation.

The One Small Step Act requires any US entity working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on lunar missions to agree to be bound by recommendations and guidelines related to the protection and preservation of certain lunar sites. It is truly one very small step. However, it is the first law enacted by any nation that recognizes the existence of human heritage in outer space. And several very significant statements were made in the preambular language. First, the law reaffirms that recognition of sites on the Moon as human heritage celebrates not just the astronauts that set foot on the Moon, but the thousands of individuals across the world who helped realize these achievements. The preambular text also recognizes that all lunar landing sites, including the robotic and crewed lunar landings the preceded and followed Apollo 11 are of outstanding universal value to humanity because such landing sites: are the first archaeological sites with human activity that are not on Earth; provide evidence of the first achievements of humankind in the realm of space travel and exploration; and contain artifacts and other evidence of human exploration activities that remain a potential source of cultural, historical, archaeological, anthropological, scientific and engineering knowledge. Finally, the text also ties the need to protect heritage to Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty, specifically, the principle of due regard.

To be clear, this is national legislation, applicable only to United States. We hope that other nations will consider similar legislation and are heartened that Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, UAE, the UK, the Ukraine, South Korea and New Zealand have also formally recognized the importance of preserving human heritage in space through Section 9 of the Artemis Accords.

Earlier this year, we also introduced our For All Moonkind Moon Registry. There are more than 100 sites on the Moon that host evidence of human activity and ingenuity, bearing witness to some of the most remarkable moments in our human journey. Our mission is to catalog the sites, and all the objects they contain. We invite you to explore. And welcome your contribution. The For All Moonkind Moon Registry is free and can be accessed at <http://www.moonregistry.forallmoonkind.org>. More information on the Moon Registry was shared via our Technical Presentation to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on April 28.

Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives, we well recognize the COPUOS and its Subcommittees as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the global governance of outer space activities and the development of international space law and for the promotion of the increased involvement of all countries in space activities. We readily offer our services to assist this body in any way we can, and we look forward to observing the continuing discussions regarding the possible formation of a Working Group on space resources. We encourage the formation of such a Working Group as we believe opening international discussion on this important topic within the auspices of this Committee is vital to assure the sustainability of space activities and the responsible exploration of space.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates, I invite you to attend our Technical Presentation on June 7 where we will share further perspectives on the identification and protection of human heritage in space. On behalf of For All Moonkind, I thank you for your kind attention