Cultural Heritage’s Role in Maintaining Peaceful Purpose

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For All Moonkind is a non-profit organization that seeks to protect and preserve human history and heritage in outer space.

Our entirely volunteer team of space lawyers and policymakers is committed to support the development of reasonable and practical protocols that will balance space activities with the recognition and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

In so doing, we seek to promote the exploration, development and utilization of space and its resources in a sustainable and successful manner.

www.forallmoonkind.org
It is time to recognize, celebrate and safeguard the sites and objects which memorialize human achievements of outstanding universal value. These, by far, are our most precious – and most vulnerable – resources in outer space.

From left to right: Luna 2, the first human made object to impact another celestial body (credit NASA); Apollo 11, the first humans to set foot on another celestial body (credit NASA); Chang’e 4, the first mission to explore the far side of the Moon (credit CNSA); and Chandrayaan 3 the first soft landing near the lunar south pole (credit ISRO).
**HISTORY**

1. **Foundation**
   - For All Moonkind founded by Michelle and Tim Hanlon.

2. **Observer Status**
   - For All Moonkind is granted observer status at the United Nations.

3. **One Small Step Act**
   - For All Moonkind works closely with American Congress to develop legislation to protect lunar heritage sites.

4. **Artemis Accords**
   - Section 9 of the Accords specifically includes the agreement to preserve outer space heritage.

5. **Lunar Heritage Digital Registry**
   - For All Moonkind creates the first-ever interactive registry of all the human-made items on the Moon. moonregistry.forallmoonkind.org/

6. **UN ECOSOC**
   - For All Moonkind is granted Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC.

7. **Institute of Space Law and Ethics**
   - Created to contemplate the ethics around space activities that are not covered in existing international law.

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9. **Future**
   - A Resolution?
     - That recognizes and safeguards cultural heritage objects and sites of historic significance in space.

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023
It is the responsibility of UNCOPUOS to address – and resolve – the conflicts within the Outer Space Treaty and international law.

- Article I: free access to all areas of celestial bodies
- Article II: non-appropriation principle
- Article IX: due regard to the corresponding interests of all others
- Article XII: assumes some control over access to stations, installation and equipment.

The due regard provision of Article IX offers us a path forward. We simply need to agree what it means to show due regard for these memorials of human history.
The World Heritage Convention Cannot Protect Celestial Cultural Heritage.

The 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, which identifies and safeguards cultural and natural heritage sites on Earth, is inapplicable to sites in outer space due to its jurisdictional limitations.

Article II, the non-appropriation principle of the Outer Space Treaty prohibits States from claiming territory in outer space by sovereignty or any other means.
Harmonizing International Space Law & Cultural Heritage Law

Article III of the Outer Space Treaty obligates States parties to “carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law.”

Cultural heritage law is part of international law and should not be ignored.

Only one of these footprints is protected.
This Committee can change that.
The LTS Guidelines define the long-term sustainability of outer space activities “as 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 the present generations while preserving the outer space environment for future generations.”

Cultural heritage is part of the outer space environment that should be recognized and ultimately safeguarded for future generations.
What is of more universal outstanding value than humanity’s first forays away from our home planet? They:

- “represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- [are] an outstanding example of a . . . technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- [are] directly or indirectly associated with events . . . with ideas, of outstanding universal significance common to all.”

*Operational Guidelines for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Yutu-2 rolls off the Chang’e 4 lander onto the lunar surface in January 2019. Credit: CNSA
How Can You Help Protect Cultural Heritage in Space?

**Connect with For All Moonkind:** Our team welcomes collaboration with delegations and observers to aid in policy making and advocacy on protecting cultural heritage in outer space.

**Due Regard for Cultural Heritage in Mission Planning:** From launch to landing or deorbiting, to operational activities on the surface of other celestial bodies, identify cultural heritage areas to avoid.

**Nationally Codify Cultural Heritage Protection:** Recognize the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage in outer space through new and existing national frameworks, across all areas of space law.

**United Nations Resolution to Recognize Cultural Heritage in Space:** We call on delegations to lead by supporting a resolution to recognize and safeguard cultural heritage in outer space.
A Call to Action.

We ask that Member State delegations consider partnering with For All Moonkind to host a multilateral meeting on the issue of protecting cultural heritage in outer space.

- With the goal of articulating international consensus on how international space law and heritage law can be harmonized.

- Urgent action must be taken before our cultural heritage in space is damaged or destroyed.

- Multilateral collaboration is crucial in order to attain this objective.
It is without question that the **decisions made today** with respect to the protection of humankind’s cultural heritage in outer space will have **far-reaching implications** for all humanity for generations.

Protecting cultural heritage in outer space serves as a foundation for consensus building.

Perched on this rare threshold, we urge you recognize the extraordinary opportunity we have to shape a future that sees all of humanity benefiting from the vast possibilities offered by outer space.

This future starts with **the acknowledgment that the recognition and safeguarding of cultural heritage must be included in developing legal frameworks.**
Thank you

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https://www.forallmoonkind.org