



Open Lunar Foundation
Statement under Agenda Item 15 “Space Exploration and Innovation”
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 19-28 June 2024

Thank you, Honourable Chair. Space exploration and innovation is a key topic for the future of humanity, and we deeply appreciate the opportunity to provide our views to this Honourable Committee.

As humanity's ambitions for lunar exploration and development intensify, the need for transparency mechanisms, coordination, and equitable access becomes undeniable. Open Lunar is an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to enabling a sustainable, peaceful presence on the Moon to benefit all humanity. A major part of our work involves research and development of infrastructure solutions to support positive lunar futures.

Distinguished Delegates, Open Lunar has been developing a number of innovative projects, with two important and timely innovation projects highlighted today.

First, Open Lunar has been exploring the importance of a standardized timekeeping system for lunar activities. Our research aims to enable synchronized operations, communications, and navigation, fostering interoperability among all lunar actors. We have been developing a low-cost open-source technology demonstration of lunar synchronized timekeeping.

Open Lunar has also been actively investigating the creation of a Registry of Lunar Objects and Activities. This registry aims to document and track objects and activities on and around the Moon in a comprehensive and accessible manner. The purpose is to enhance transparency, coordination, and responsible governance of lunar exploration and development activities by all lunar actors, including national and private sector actors. We envision this registry complementing, enriching, and supporting the vital work of the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Through our research team, Open Lunar has taken this registry concept from the initial stages to a prototype technical demonstration. We have conducted stakeholder consultations, developed a roadmap for full implementation, and conducted an in-depth examination of the legal, policy, and operational implications of such a registry. Some key aspects explored include mechanisms for voluntary data sharing, important field inclusion to increase safety amongst actors, methods to

leverage data sources, approaches to encourage participation by state and non-state actors, and avenues for potential future institutionalisation.

Honourable Chair, the registry aims to cover the emerging lunar environment including launch details, trajectories, lunar orbits and operations, surface activity sites, and eventual decommissioning. We believe maintaining a transparent record in this manner can promote coordination, safety, equitable access, and responsible stewardship as lunar activities increase.

Distinguished Delegates, joint discussions, cooperation, and sharing are key to Open Lunar's vision for a peaceful lunar future. Accordingly, we stand ready to share our findings and continue constructive engagement. In the spirit of international cooperation, we also invite collaboration and inputs from all interested delegates, other governmental bodies, space agencies, private companies, and all interested stakeholders. By increasing transparency on lunar activities, we can lay the groundwork for a peaceful and sustainable future for all on the Moon.

To conclude, we appreciate the special consideration given by this Honourable Committee to the key topic of space exploration and innovation. We're grateful for the chance to contribute our perspective, and we'll be ready to lend our expertise as relevant and appropriate.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.