

For All Moonkind, Item 3
Michelle L.D. Hanlon, President and Co-Founder
27 March 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair. It is, as ever, a great honor and privilege for me to submit this statement on behalf of For All Moonkind. First, I would like to reiterate our deep appreciation of your leadership and our gratitude for the incredible work of the Secretariat and the entire staff of the Office of Outer Space Affairs. We are thankful for all the kind assistance and guidance we are always provided.

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased to take this opportunity to advise you of the formation of For All Moonkind's Institute on Space Law and Ethics. This new Institute offers a natural progression of For All Moonkind's commitment to responsible space exploration and behaviors. As many of you know, we are the only organization in the world that is focused on achieving the recognition of, and appropriate protections for, human heritage sites in outer space. In so doing, we seek to balance the protection of important cultural heritage sites with the exploration and utilization of space and its resources.

Recognizing and protecting cultural heritage is important because it supports identity, memory and sense of place. Cultural heritage plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable development. It enables social cohesion and strengthens social well-being. Protecting cultural heritage is a hallmark of civil society, and a recognition of human kinship that transcends geopolitical conflict. Protecting cultural heritage in space is the ethical, proper and responsible thing to do to both honor our past and support our multiplanetary future.

Yet, as we know, distinguished delegates, there are currently no laws protecting or even recognizing cultural heritage in the space outside our Earth. Indeed, as this Subcommittee well knows there are many gaps in the legal framework governing human activities in space. This is

troubling, but also promising. Our expansion into space affords humanity a unique opportunity to improve the human condition and set a better example for future generations.

Distinguished delegates, humanity is poised on a threshold unlike any in our short history. For centuries we, across cultures and generations, have contemplated, celebrated and tried to solve the mysteries of the cosmos. In the past six decades, we have learned to effectively utilize our orbit, providing tremendous benefit to all humanity with more and more advanced communications and remote sensing capabilities. We placed a proverbial toe in the vastness of space, sending twelve of our own, and a number of robots to literally scratch the surface of the Moon and then Mars. But now the human space age has truly commenced. We contemplate orbital hotels, installations on the Moon and the promise of asteroids composed of rare-Earth metals. And we act, not just as sovereign nations, but also as private individuals and organizations. It is incontrovertible that the decisions we make today will indelibly affect the entirety of our future, perhaps even the continuation, evolution or extinction of our species.

The current space law regime is lacking in specifics to address new space activities from in-space manufacturing to lunar and asteroid mining to, ultimately, the seeding and nurturing of human communities off Earth. Humanity must develop legal and regulatory frameworks for undertakings that once were contemplated only in minds and pages of science fiction writers. In order to succeed, these frameworks must be built on ethical norms, principles that govern behavior even where the law falls short. They must be informed by ethical considerations as expressed by diverse cultures and philosophies.

Distinguished delegates, these are the issues that will be explored and addressed by For All Moonkind's Institute on Space Law and Ethics. I am honored to be joined by Andy Aldrin, Namrata Goswami, Dan Hawk, Ram Jakhu, David Kendall, Marlene Losier, Sergio Marchesio,

Claire Nelson, Nick Nielsen, Joe Pelton, John Rummel, Michael Walthemathe, and Frank White in leading this new endeavor.

The mission of the Institute is to promote the articulation and development of an ethical foundation and framework for responsible space behavior. In so doing, the Institute seeks to reduce the potential for conflict and assure the sustainable exploration and use of space and its resources for the benefit of all humankind.

Distinguished delegates, For All Moonkind's Institute on Space Law and Ethics will serve as a platform for the exchange and innovation of ideas regarding law, morality, and ethics, amplifying diverse thoughts and opinions on the future of humanity in space. The Institute will produce robust research and analysis on the myriad complex legal and ethical issues emanating from humanity's transition to a multiplanetary and truly spacefaring species. Importantly, the Institute will also raise public awareness of, broaden civil discourse on, and encourage public support for space activities. We have welcomed our first cohort of fellows and will continue outreach on an ongoing basis.

Distinguished delegates, humanity has a moral imperative to explore space responsibly, learn from and reach beyond the transgressions of our actions on Earth. We look forward to harboring vibrant and meaningful exchange of views and helping to articulate the legal and ethical norms that will support our future. And we look forward to continuing to support the work of this Legal Subcommittee to harness the great resources of space to support and sustain human communities on Earth and throughout space. My colleagues and I will be here the rest of the week and welcome your questions. I thank you for your kind attention.

For more information about For All Moonkind's Institute on Space Law and Ethics please visit:
<https://www.forallmoonkind.org/institute>