

64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee
Of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, Austria
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Thank you, Chair. Distinguished delegates and representatives, it is a great honor and privilege for me to deliver this statement on behalf of For All Moonkind. I would first like to convey from all of us at For All Moonkind, our appreciation for your leadership, and our gratitude to the entire OOSA team for their always incredible work in organizing and managing these meetings.

Distinguished delegates, imagine standing on the Moon, at the exact spot where Luna 2 struck in 1959—the first human-made object to touch another world. Picture the Sea of Tranquility, where two humans gingerly stepped off a ladder and marked our first steps on another celestial body. Envision the far side of the Moon, where Chang’e 4 made history, or the lunar south pole, where Chandrayaan 3 landed triumphantly. These aren’t just places—they are milestones marking centuries of human evolution, innovation and daring. Right now, these sites are unmarred, a pristine gift from history. These lunar landmarks are the most vulnerable treasures we have, the birth certificate of humanity as a spacefaring civilization. Future generations are watching—will we let these sites be erased, or will we protect them as the seeds of our multiplanetary future?

Distinguished delegates, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the beacon of international cooperation in space, a platform for peace, governance and inclusion. We applaud the important work that has been concluded within this body, and the work that continues, especially in respect of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource

Activities and the Action Team on Lunar Activity Consultation. At this moment we would also like to extend our sincere condolences to the delegation of Poland for the loss of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal, a visionary diplomat. We note with appreciation that the Initial Draft Set of Recommended Principles for Space Resource Activities recognizes the existence of human cultural heritage in space. And we are grateful for and strongly support the submissions of Poland and the United Kingdom to the ATLAC which also urge the Action Team to prioritize cultural heritage during the course of Consultations.

We believe that the 1967 Outer Space Treaty provides a foundation for heritage protection. While Article I assures free access to all areas of celestial bodies and Article II bans national appropriation, Article IX requires the application of due regard when engaged in space activities. Consultations are required to avoid harmful interference. Similarly, Article XII suggests that access may be guided by considerations of reciprocity. Taken together, these principles pave the way for managed access protocols that balance access with the desire to safeguard.

These managed access protocols must be science-based and should be established through consensus by the UNCOPUOS Member States. To assist effort, For All Moonkind's Moon Registry—a digital catalog of the more than 115 sites on the Moon which bear evidence of human activity—offers a foundation for identifying and prioritizing locations for safeguarding. Our space law and cultural heritage experts from many Member States, including Poland, Nigeria, Italy and many others, are eager to offer their expertise and assistance.

Distinguished delegates, nations and companies are racing to the Moon. Without action, uncoordinated missions risk turning cultural heritage sites into collateral damage. We urge this Subcommittee to act boldly: recognize the unique value of cultural heritage in outer

space, identify priority sites for initial temporary safeguarding protocols and craft multilateral guidelines for implementation of access protocol ensuring fairness, transparency and sustainability. Starting with the shared heritage representative of our collective human achievements encourages an approach of collaboration and conservation that can be adopted for sites of scientific, resource and other values. In short, safeguarding our heritage is another step toward responsible and sustainable space exploration. Only by weaving heritage into legal frameworks, can we safeguard our past while fueling a future of peace, innovation, and unity for humanity both here on Earth and in space.

Distinguished delegates, it may be that no one in this room will have the opportunity to visit any of the historic lunar landing sites. But surely, we can work to preserve that opportunity for our children and their children.

I thank you for your kind attention.

[FOR THE WRITTEN SUBMISSION ONLY]

If you would like to learn more about For All Moonkind, or if you are interested in participating in our future forums, please visit www.forallmoonkind.org and/or email info@forallmoonkind.org.

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