



64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee
Of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, Austria
May 2025

Thank you Chair. Distinguished delegates and representatives, it is an honor to address the Legal Subcommittee and share updates on For All Moonkind's contributions to space law. We express our deep appreciation for your leadership, the Secretariat, and the entire team at the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their tireless efforts and invaluable guidance.

For All Moonkind remains steadfast in its mission to preserve cultural heritage in outer space as a shared legacy of humankind. Our work seeks to balance sustainable exploration with the protection of historic sites, such as the Apollo, Luna, Chang'e and Chandrayaan lunar landing sites, which mark humanity's first steps beyond Earth.

However, distinguished delegates, as you are no doubt aware, safeguarding any cultural heritage in outer space faces significant legal challenges. Article II of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibits national appropriation of celestial territory, thwarting any single nation's ability to protect culturally significant sites. Meanwhile, Article I's guarantee of free access and exploration creates a tension with efforts to preserve these sites, leaving space heritage without the protections afforded to terrestrial cultural material.

As space exploration accelerates, addressing these legal gaps is imperative to safeguard humanity's extraterrestrial heritage for future generations. The 2023 White Paper 19 on Cultural Heritage by the International Law Association aptly notes, "The lack of a dedicated law to address these new challenges is becoming an issue. What do we plan to do with the traces of human presence in outer space?"

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Today, we are pleased to announce For All Moonkind's collaboration with the University of Strathclyde's School of Law, the Center for Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi and the Heritage International Institute on a pioneering Summer School course called "Heritage, Human Rights and Space Law." The inaugural course will launch in June 2026 in Glasgow. Through expert-led seminars, this course will equip students to understand and address the legal and ethical complexities of preserving cultural heritage and upholding human rights in outer space, on the Moon and other celestial bodies—issues not fully addressed by the 1967 Treaty. This multidisciplinary approach is vital as space becomes a domain for habitation and resource extraction, ensuring that human rights and heritage preservation remain integral to an evolving space law framework.

Distinguished delegates, For All Moonkind takes grateful note of and endorses the proposal of the Republic of Poland on the Preservation of Lunar Heritage as a new activity of the ATLAC for peace and sustainable development in outer space. We also commend and welcome the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities prepared by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities. We note that cultural heritage considerations remain bracketed, for further discussion and we are optimistic that meaningful dialog will occur at these meetings. While some may view cultural heritage as secondary, we believe it is foundational—not only because these vulnerable links to our shared history in space are at risk, but also because they have the potential to foster unity, mitigate conflict and build consensus. Recognizing the legal complexities, our team is actively conducting comprehensive legal research to develop effective strategies for implementing Article I while ensuring robust protections for cultural heritage in space. Moreover, by establishing a framework to safeguard cultural heritage, we believe it can serve as a model for protecting operational and scientific sites, enhancing the broader preservation of space assets.

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Distinguished delegates, one of the artifacts left on the Moon is a disc which contains Messages of Peace from more than 50 nations. From Afghanistan to Zambia, these messages convey the same hope: that humanity's growing knowledge of the universe will bring peace to Earth. As we enter this exciting new phase of human development – where we finally, after centuries of longing are able to reach the Moon, the stars and all the unimaginable resources and opportunities they offer, this Committee, dedicated to the peaceful uses of outer space, should, arguably is obligated, to fulfill the aspirations enshrined in the Messages of Peace. Because if not you, then who?

Distinguished delegates, For All Moonkind remains steadfast in our mission to ensure that humanity's achievements in space endure as a testament to our collective ingenuity and form the basis for a peaceful spacefaring future. By fostering education and advancing legal research, we aim to support UNCOPUOS in creating a sustainable and inclusive future for space exploration. For All Moonkind will be in attendance for the entirety of these meetings and we are delighted to share more information about our course on Heritage, Human Rights and Space Law and our other ongoing initiatives.

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>