



Open Lunar Foundation
Statement under agenda Item 5 “General Exchange of Views”
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 1 - 10 June

Thank you, Honourable Chair.

As this is the first time that the Open Lunar Foundation takes the floor during these meetings, we would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Committee, and thank Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso for his impeccable leadership in guiding it throughout the difficult times of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We also would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Secretariat in ensuring the smooth functioning of this Honourable Committee and its subsidiary bodies under such unprecedented and challenging circumstances.

Honourable Chair, the Open Lunar Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to the peaceful and cooperative development of the Moon, for the benefit of all life. Last year, Open Lunar became an Observer to this Honourable Committee and today I am delighted to present you our first ever in-person statement.

Distinguished Delegates, just like this Honourable Committee, the Open Lunar Foundation devotes equal consideration to technical and legal issues alike. In our work, we operate at the intersection of technology, policy and economics to address the many unprecedented challenges posed by the surge of global interest in the exploration and use of the Moon. We believe that the complex questions associated with lunar activities can only be answered through the active contribution of all disciplines and stakeholders, and we are committed to fostering the realisation of unity in diversity.

Thanks to our global network and the diverse composition of our team, we are able to connect all the pieces in what we call “state of the Moon”. This is a framework for ongoing assessment that is meant to promote a holistic understanding of the needs and trends of lunar development. We then leverage this understanding to promote fruitful interactions among decision



makers, investors and operators, in support of policies and missions that can enable a thriving future on the Moon.

A key feature that distinguishes our work from that of other organisations is the strategic identification of areas where targeted policy interventions could have significant positive effects on lunar development. For example, over the course of 2021, we brought together dozens of researchers from various fields, cultures and countries, to study and understand the use cases for different resource systems on the Moon. From this work, our team developed and prototyped the idea of a “scorecard” for lunar resources which can be used to evaluate their individual status and therefore help to prioritise which of them are actively in need of coordination and/or protection.

Another distinguishing feature of Open Lunar is our ability to set up new entities in support of positive lunar developments. For instance, in 2021 we supported the creation of the Breaking Ground Trust, an independent legal entity designed to set intentional positive precedents for lunar resource management. Through the purchase of small amounts of regolith collected by lander missions, the Breaking Ground Trust aims to prototype concrete and rational solutions that could hopefully be replicated by all actors on any scale. At present, the Trust is negotiating regolith purchases with commercial operators that could set positive precedents beyond resource management, in support of the safe and sustainable uses of the Moon.

Distinguished Delegates, at Open Lunar we believe in the key importance of inclusive and multi-stakeholder exchanges. Together with other permanent observers to this Honourable Committee like the Space Generation Advisory Council, the Secure World Foundation and For All Moonkind, we also host an innovative, online platform dedicated to lunar policy called Moon Dialogs. Since 2019, the Moon Dialogs has contributed to the development of a lunar policy community that has bloomed beautifully despite the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Honourable Chair, we consider that now is the time to convene lunar stakeholders in dedicated groups, featuring space agencies and companies



alike, to work on the development of standards and architectures for key lunar activities such as landing and communications. In light of the growing number of actors and missions, the global development of interoperable standards and shared infrastructure at this stage of lunar exploration would provide invaluable benefits in terms of increased access and opportunities for cooperation, turning a potential cacophony into an harmonious choir.

Distinguished Delegates, at Open Lunar we would be delighted to employ our resources and expertise in support of all lunar actors, present and future. If we can be of service to any of you in setting positive precedents for thriving lunar activities, please do not hesitate to contact us. We invite you to visit our website for more information on our work, and stand ready to cooperate with all of you for the peaceful, safe, and sustainable development of the Moon.

Thank you so very much for your kind attention.