

FOR ALL MOONKIND, AGENDA ITEM 5

STATEMENT BY DAVID KENDALL

For All Moonkind

65th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, Austria

June 6, 2022

Thank you, Chair, and let me personally congratulate you and the two vice chairs on your respective elections during this period of both dynamic and challenging global developments related to outer space activities for peaceful purposes. In addition, we would like to recognize and add our deep appreciation and thanks to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the current Acting Director of the Office and long-standing Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section; his outstanding leadership in both organizing and guiding the Committee over many years has been instrumental in the achievements and growth of the Committee during his tenure and we wish him every success in his retirement.

Distinguished colleagues, For All Moonkind is the only organization in the world committed to preserving human heritage in outer space. We are an entirely volunteer, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to ensure that historic lunar landing sites from all nations, as well as similar sites and objects in other regions of outer space, are recognized for their outstanding value to humanity and, consequently, are preserved and protected for posterity as part of our common human heritage.

We are privileged to be a Permanent Observer to this Committee since 2018 and, during this period, through the encouragement and informal support we have received from delegates and Observers, we believe that we have successfully introduced and developed the case for the preservation and protection of these important sites. However, now, collectively and hopefully through this Committee, we believe that it is time to act, especially given the rapidly developing and funded activities related to the exploration of the Moon.

Distinguished colleagues, neither the Outer Space Treaty nor any other of the four associated UN space treaties consider cultural heritage or the protection of historic sites in space. But placing culture at the heart of future space-related policies, treaties, resolutions and guidelines is the only way to ensure human-centered, inclusive and equitable development of this arena. Consequently, For All Moonkind urges the international community to embrace a concept for space that has already been accepted by virtually every nation on Earth: the preservation of cultural heritage. Today, we urge the Committee to commence the process to formally consider the adoption of measures to recognize the existence of human cultural heritage in space.

Distinguished colleagues, we all well know that culture, in essence, is essential to defining who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. It is what shapes our identity as humans. In short, development cannot be sustainable without culture. The protection and preservation of human heritage recognizes those who came before us, protects the gains of our civilization and allows future generations to learn from both their results and their processes. It reminds us that we do not stand on a starting line as we look to space, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before. In protecting cultural heritage we assure our sustainability and remind us that we are drawn together in kinship rather than drawn apart by barriers.

Distinguished delegates, as COPUOS enters its most significant era since its establishment, without question it is the decisions made today with respect to the potential legal model for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of outer space that will have far-reaching implications for future generations, and, indeed, all humanity. The Outer Space Treaty established a sustainable legal framework for space activities that has served humanity well as it tentatively explored the space surrounding our Earth. Yet it is clear that as humanity continues to advance beyond our Earth, new principles must be adopted

to assure success and sustainability, and, importantly, to avoid conflict and harmful interference. The next stage of human development relies on our ability to get this right. And protecting our history in space is the first easy step in that direction.

We welcome you all to join us on this journey.

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.