



**Open Lunar Foundation**  
**Statement under agenda Item 15 “Space Exploration and Innovation”**  
**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 1 - 10 June**

Thank you, Honorable Chair.

The Open Lunar Foundation very much appreciates the opportunity to intervene on the critical topic of space exploration and innovation. In line with the vision of our organization, we would like to use this time to update this Honorable Committee on the latest lunar developments, or, as we like to say, “the state of the Moon”.

Over the coming decades the Moon is going to see a flurry of activity. Already this year there are 7 landers, 4 orbiters and 1 fly-by scheduled to launch to our natural satellite. Half of these activities are commercial, with governments participating as customers, and the other half are dedicated to scientific objectives. By current estimates, at the end of the present decade the Moon might have been visited by a total of 106 missions from 19 different countries featuring hundreds of international payloads. One after the other, all these missions will establish very important precedents like the first persistent infrastructure or the first commercial recovery of a space resource.

Honorable Chair, at Open Lunar we regularly speak with the future operators of these missions. Most of them want to be good actors, but they are often not aware of how their behaviors might raise important questions and set key legal and policy precedents. On paper, all these missions are meant to lay the foundations for the conduct of future robotic and human activities on an increasingly growing scale. In practice, current lunar plans do not often take into account the potential impact that might be caused by parallel activities conducted by others. Due to the very features of the lunar environment, this in turn raises a serious risk of potentially harmful interference (however unintentional).

Distinguished Delegates, we are proud to serve the space community by advising lunar players on the consequences of their actions, but much more



needs to be done in these areas. Coordination and policy frameworks for lunar activities are lagging behind. While lunar actors can and should rely on existing international space law, there are no dedicated mechanisms in place to ensure the safety and sustainability of lunar activities. We believe that regulation should not anticipate nor follow technological and economic developments, but that it should accompany them. At present, the lack of minimum coordination tools providing confidence and protection to lunar operators is slowing innovation down. But in the future, it might even pose a serious threat to the peaceful uses of the Moon.

In our view, the full potential of space exploration and innovation, especially on the Moon, can only be enabled by a combination of technologic, economic and policy factors. As an organization working at the intersection between economy, policy and technology, we are dedicated to this very goal. Let us give you one example. Over the course of 2021, we brought together dozens of researchers from different fields, cultures and countries, to study and understand the use cases for different resource systems on the Moon. The outcome from this work was to characterize seven types of resources, from electromagnetic spectrum to water ice, and explore different management approaches for each of them. Our team also developed and prototyped the idea of a “scorecard” for lunar resources, that can be used to evaluate their respective scarcity and therefore help to prioritize which resources are actively in need of coordination and/or protection.

Distinguished Delegates, over the past 60 years the space community has looked to this Honorable Committee for international guidance on technical and legal matters related to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. We thus hope that in considering the important topic of space exploration and innovation, you may take this opportunity to begin a much needed conversation on dedicated mechanisms for international coordination and cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of the Moon.

At the Open Lunar Foundation we stand ready to support these discussions with the best of our energies and skills. In furtherance of this commitment, we will continue to update this Honorable Committee and the international



community on the “state of the Moon”, and very much look forward to working together with all interested parties towards the realization of a thriving lunar future.

Thank you all very much for your kind attention.