

STATEMENT BY MICHELLE L.D. HANLON
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57th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, Austria
February 2020

Thank you Madame Chair. Madame Chair, distinguished delegates and representatives, it is with great pleasure that I make this statement on behalf of For All Moonkind to the 57th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Sitting here before you today, I represent nearly 100 volunteers space lawyers like me, engineers, scientists, industry stakeholders and communicators from around the world. That's right. Volunteer. For All Moonkind has no payroll. We pay no consulting fees. Each and every one of us contributes our time. We are driven by passion. Passion for space. Passion for humanity. Passion for our shared future.

For All Moonkind is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. We are the only organization in the world committed to preserving human heritage in outer space. Our mission is to assure that historic lunar landing sites – like the site where Luna 2 impacted in 1959 and the site where Apollo 11 landed in 1969 – and similar sites in outer space are recognized for their outstanding value to humanity and consequently preserved and protected for posterity as part of our common human heritage. We seek to achieve this objective by promoting the development of protocols and guidelines – and ultimately, a binding Convention – that balances development and resource utilization with the recognition, protection, preservation or memorialization of human heritage in outer space.

This ambition is consistent with the achievements of international conventions, multi- and bilateral treaties, as well as national laws that have steadily for over a century recognized a greater diversity of cultural heritage on Earth as a particularly important element in the history of peoples, nations, and their relations with each other.

As you all know, the World Heritage Convention protects our human heritage here on Earth. 193 nations have ratified the World Heritage Convention in part because it is well-understood that global recognition helps to build a sense of community among peoples throughout the world. Today, it is equally well-recognized, especially in this chamber, that the human civilization on this Earth needs space and its resources to survive. As we focus on a future in, or inevitably tied to space, we need to embrace this sense of community more than ever. Identifying, recognizing and celebrating cultural heritage in outer space as our shared human heritage will build unity, universality and sustainability. The Pyramids are in Egypt, the Great Wall is in China, our common ancestor's first footsteps are in Tanzania. But I think that everyone in this room will agree that all of these sites represent accomplishments we share as a species. Just as we share humankind's greatest technological achievements – reaching the Moon and harnessing the advantages of space to improve our human experience on Earth.

And indeed, in 2007, the Chair of COPUOS recommended that that the COPUOS should consider protection or conservation of designated areas of the Moon and other bodies in the solar system. The Working Paper, A/AC.105/L.268, states in pertinent part:

Quote: In view of the development of space exploration and in particular the renewed interest in the Moon as a first stage of exploration, there is a need for a fresh approach to the idea of protecting designated areas of such bodies of the solar system, either because of their historical, cultural and environmental significance (such as the Apollo, Surveyors and Lunakhod landing sites on the Moon) or because there are good reasons for wanting to protect certain areas of scientific interest. This concept could also be applied to certain parts of outer space itself such as the Lagrange points

(sometimes called libration points) in the Earth-Moon or the Sun- Earth system. End quote.

This Working Paper was prepared 13 years ago. We, at For All Moonkind are keen to assist the COPUOS with the development of these ideas to protect such designated areas.

At the core of For All Moonkind's philosophy is the recognition that global – and off-world – issues are best solved through international collaboration. As such, our organization works from grassroots to build multilateral relationships at the public, private and individual level. We have enjoyed a number of milestones since we last addressed this Subcommittee in 2019. Chief among our successes is the passage – unanimously – by the United States Senate of the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act. For All Moonkind made significant contributions to the development and drafting of this legislation which is the first of its kind by any nation.

The One Small Step Act requires a US federal agency that issues a license for the conduct of a lunar activity to require that each license applicant agree to abide by recommendations, guidelines, or principles issued by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration related to the protection and preservation of certain lunar sites.

The legislation recognizes that it is national legislation, applicable only to United States-based lunar activities and therefore has limited efficacy for protecting historic sites against disturbances caused by space-faring entities based outside the United States.

Thus, the Act indicates that it is the sense of the US Congress that the US President should work with other countries to develop best practices to ensure the protection of all historic sites in space.

At an international level, our legal research involves developing strategies to formally identify and designate heritage sites in space. Members of our Legal Council are using the

rich history of the United Nations and the model of our most successful multilateral treaties and conventions to design and test possible heritage preservation solutions.

Members of our Industry and Science Council have developed another first. A digital Register of human items on the lunar surface. While still in beta form today, we would be happy to share the link with interested delegates. In addition to cataloging all of the human material on the Moon, we will open the For All Moonkind Moon Registry to public comment and contribution. Our hope is to crowd-source the human stories behind the items so that future generations can be inspired by the individuals who have worked so hard to move humans into space. While Neil Armstrong may have been the first human to step on the Moon, he and Buzz Aldrin traveled into history on the backs of hundreds and thousands of scientists, engineers, mathematicians and factory-line workers who conceived, developed and built the hardware – not to mention the centuries of science from around the world that forms the foundation of our understanding of the universe.

As indicated by our Technical Presentation, which we were honored to share last Friday, February 7, we are also working to promulgate physical strategies to protect heritage and other sites on the Moon. Sustainable exploration and use of lunar resources requires that we mitigate the damage that will be caused by lunar ejecta from lunar landings. This is vital not just to protect historic sites, but also to assure continued operation of scientific and other equipment. The best – and perhaps only – solution is to work together to understand the plume effect and build shared lunar landing pads using in situ resources. We urge this Subcommittee to encourage collaboration amongst space agencies to deal with the plume effect before it becomes a costly and perhaps even fatal issue.

We well recognize the COPUOS and its Subcommittees as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the global governance of outer space activities and the development of international space law

and for the promotion of the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives. And we readily offer our services to assist this body in any way we can.

We are honored to attend this 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with one primary goal: to introduce ourselves to you, esteemed delegates, and share with you more details of our mission and vision. We encourage you to think about our history in space, and the link between our heritage and the sustainability of space activities. We welcome collaboration and cooperation and are eager to work with any and all of you to support education and awareness raising efforts.

Distinguished delegates. In the past six decades, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has made so much history. Here, delegates huddled during a Cold War and assured that peace would prevail in space. Here, delegates demonstrated a deep-seated understanding that outer space is indeed a new frontier – one that will be best and most successfully utilized if States work together. Here, delegates like you developed the legal regime that allowed history to be made in space. For All Moonkind is honored to bear witness to that history. Now we simply ask you to help us protect our shared history. Protect the fruits of the labor of this Committee – the objects and sites that bear witness to humanity's exploration of space and the Moon.

Madame Chair, Distinguished delegates, on behalf of For All Moonkind, I thank you for your kind attention. My colleague Judith Beck and I will be here all week and welcome the opportunity to meet. We look forward to working with all of you to protect our history and thereby assure a sustainable and successful future in space. Thank you.