

**Space Renaissance International****COPUOS 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee  
Vienna, 5-16 May 2025****5 minutes Speech:****Item\_TBC\_A\_UN\_Flag\_On\_The\_Moon\_Abstract\_as\_of\_13\_February****Adriano V. Autino**

As humanity prepares to return to the Moon, we stand at a defining moment that challenges us to implement the notable themes of sustainable space governance and reshape our shared values and aims. The 1969 Moon landing marked a “giant leap for mankind”, and today, with the Artemis Accords and the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) leading the way, our journey now represents a movement forward for all the peoples of Planet Earth. These formative missions will transcend technological limitations and national boundaries, embodying interchange, unity, peace, and equality in a divided world. Our perspective illustrates the critical connection between responsible outer space development and Earth's resilience.

Space Renaissance International (SRI), together with the Space 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Coalition, proposes a powerful and symbolic act that will affirm the mutual commitment of all humankind to the principles of human betterment: the planting of a United Nations flag on the Moon, alongside any national flag. This gesture represents humanity's commitment to harmonious interchange and collaboration as we explore the unknown.

From outer space, astronauts experience the power and awe of the Overview Effect— which has been described by Frank White as a “profound realization of Earth’s interconnectedness without borders or divisions.” In aligning with the principles of responsible space utilization and international cooperation, the display of the U.N. flag would immediately establish a global precedent for extraterrestrial activities. A U.N. flag on the Moon represents a bold statement for stability and durable global security and peace, showcasing that our greatest achievements will emerge from interchange, cooperation, and friendly competition, not antagonism and conflict.

In a critical era of geopolitical tensions and terrible retrograde wars, the unique and symbolic U.N. Lunar Flag will meet multiple purposes, serving as a bridge between cultures and across national divides. This notable flag will also mark our formal transition into a far newer age. As outer space development reaches all places and all peoples, the equitable and collaborative use of space will reiterate the collective objectives of our communities for human development and well-being.

The significance of a lunar U.N. flag for the newer age of mankind reminds us that the unfolding of our future worldview depends on equitable partnership and mutual respect, echoing many excellent collaborations in space such as Apollo-Soyuz, Mir, and the International Space Station (ISS). Despite progress toward equality of opportunity, space

launch, and spacefaring capacities remain dominated by a few nations. Planting the U.N. flag would affirm that the transformative realm of space development belongs to all of humanity, ensuring that its vast benefits and opportunities are accessible to everyone.

This proposal supports the placement of an 18th SDG, which advocates for sustainable civilian space development and related technological means to rapidly inform and address the Earthly issues of poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability. Yet returning to the Moon impacts civilization far more than mere science; this venture symbolizes restoring faith in a shared future. A U.N. flag would inspire future generations to envision a world where sustainable collaboration and enduring progress uplift all of humanity

The Moon is the place where humanity's highest ideals will shine. Planting a flag "by humanity, for humanity" would demonstrate our capacity for unity in diversity, bridging the way forward to a better world. SRI has formally proposed this historic gesture to the leaders of the Artemis Accords and the ILRS platform, also advocating for the inclusion of NGOs as observers in the global and transformative lunar endeavor.

[Warning: this is an abstract. Proper text will be communicated before the session]