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Sharing space achievements and heritage: space museums and societies (5)

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INSPIRING LEGAL INITIATIVES TO SAFEGUARD AND ENHANCE SPACE-RELATED ON AND
OFF WORLD ART AND CULTURE AMONGST GREATER SECTORS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Abstract

It is increasingly clamant to expand the United Nations treaty regime over an area of human endeavor that continues to bear tangible and intangible elements of art and culture as a result of further, even yet unimaginable, progress in the exploration and use of outer space, particularly as their discernibility and inherent vulnerability increase without rules to qualify or safeguard them beyond or on Earth. Legal and institutional initiatives are needed to ensure that space law continues to be a relevant part of global space governance by safeguarding a wide breadth of art and cultural at the crossroads of cultural diversity and human creativity. These initiatives would evidence due regard for the cultural and human rights of present and future generations, but also for those of past generations whose extraterrestrial understandings have framed our terrestrial cultures, societies, museums and heritage institutions.

The proposed abstract seeks to examine with IAC participants legal principles to govern art and culture beyond Earth and also envision an international framework for these pieces once they reenter or enter Earth for the first time. Those cultural and artistic expressions would require a special status under international space and art law to ensure their physical safeguarding while on and off World. Rules to support the inter or intra planetary movement and trade of these pieces, as well as the proprietary rights that may relate to them if they are imported to Earth, should be considered. Rules also need to be developed that will ensure their cultural safeguarding for the benefit of humanity.

It is the hope that this IAF abstract can contribute to discussions about positive and negative obligations that can be undertaken by states and civil society to take all practicable measures to raise public awareness regarding the value and significance of space related art and culture. These discussions would play also an important role in creating legal systems to protecting space-related art and culture in a new space law instrument, including with the use of integrated on/off world inventories which could facilitate their recognition, respect and enhancement, thereby, making them more accessible to and better known by all sectors of civil society.