

50 years ago, December 1968, our view of the world literally changed. As Apollo 8 rounded the Moon, the astronauts on board were suddenly overwhelmed as humans saw the Earth rising above the lunar horizon for the first time. The picture taken at that moment showed our beautiful planet hanging in the vastness of space. Humanity as a species began to realize that we are all one, living together on a fragile planet hurtling through the cosmos. The writers, the poets, those who dared to dream of a better future saw a day when humanity could resolve its differences by peaceful means.

But even though no borders were visible, war and suffering continued to wrack our home world. In the half-century since, people have begun to lose faith in our governments, our institutions, even in humanity itself. Every day we wake up to the news of yet another mass killing, more terrorist attacks, the disastrous effects of climate change, and the threat of nuclear war. Our national governments seem to care more for corporations than the people, and the corporations seem to put their bottom line above everything else. The people of Earth are beginning to despair, wondering if there is anything they can really believe in. They are losing hope.

Fellow delegates, our mission is nothing less than to restore that hope, to give the people of our planet a future they can believe in. To counter the despair of war and violence and neglect. We have a unique opportunity to set an example and create a new future for humanity, to build that shining city on a hill that will light the way for all.

It is our duty to make that hope a reality. I call upon each of you to support the adoption of the Moon Treaty, and to make every effort to persuade your respective national governments to do so.

It has been 500 years since the world has had such an opportunity to start anew. At that time, we chose to perpetuate slavery, military conquest, and economic exploitation, all of which caused misery and countless wars. And when the Industrial Revolution came along, we placed profits ahead of people, resulting in economic and environmental catastrophe. Much of humanity stopped believing in our ability to control our own destiny.

We can change that. But we must act now. There will be only one time when humanity leaves its home world, only one chance to create a new pattern that will lead each of us, and all of us, to our best destiny. That time is now. In the name of Humanity – past, present, and future - I call upon the Member States of the Moon Treaty to start immediately to draft an Implementation Agreement that will address concerns and allow other countries to join, and to begin drafting the international framework of laws that the Treaty mandates. Please join in this effort to restore hope and create a better world – a better universe – for all of us.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

