

The UNISPACE process has failed in its efforts to create an international framework of laws to guide humanity's departure from the home planet. But there is still a need for a regime of laws that will provide certainty and predictability for businesses and investors while protecting public policy interests. It now appears that the Moon Treaty is the best hope for doing so and moving humanity forward. An Implementation Agreement like the one used for the Convention on the Law of the Seas would address the concerns of private enterprise and others, including property rights for space resources, protection of intellectual property, funding, settlements, and individual rights. Benefits from adopting the Treaty would include tapping the creativity, talent, and resources of free enterprise; the sharing of information; access to technology; mutual assistance at times of need; the protection of the celestial environment (including historical/cultural legacy sites); the sharing of benefits with all nations; and a decision-making process that addresses public policy concerns while providing a sustainable legal framework for space commerce. Perhaps more importantly, such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations between states and peoples, i.e., to world peace. It will provide an alternative to militant nationalism and restore hope to individuals at a time when war, violence, and neglect are causing despair. The current Member States of the Moon Treaty should immediately start the process of drafting the Implementation Agreement and creating an international framework of laws, inviting other countries to join rather than being left behind, without a seat at the table, as humanity begins its journey from the home planet.