The Artemis Accords

Specific Principles: What are They, and Why?
What’s the Motivation?

Is this some kind of nefarious plot?!?
International Space Law: aka What’s Our Toolkit?

Outer Space Treaty, 1967
Rescue & Return Agreement, 1968
Liability Convention, 1972
Registration Convention, 1974
Artemis Principles

1. Peaceful purposes
2. Transparency
3. Interoperability
4. Emergency assistance
5. Registration of objects
6. Release of scientific data
7. Human heritage
8. Space resources
9. Deconfliction of activities
10. Orbital debris and spacecraft disposal
Resources in Space
What Does the Outer Space Treaty Say?

• Article I: “Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.”

• Article II: “Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.”
The Accords on Space Resources

• Sets out a common understanding that:
  – Extraction and utilization of space resources is lawful
  – BUT you have to comply with the OST and any other applicable rules
  – You can’t run around claiming territory

• That’s it!
Deconfliction of Activities
What the Heck is Deconfliction and How Do you Do it in Space?

• Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty: “In the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall...conduct all their activities with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty.”

• PLUS consultations in advance of activities which would cause “potentially harmful interference” with other activities
What Does That Look Like in the Accords?

• Telling other space actors what you’re doing
• Telling them where you’re doing it
• Telling them about safety and interference concerns
• Then you talk, coordinate, and work it out!
Final Thoughts