

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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### Statement by Maruska Strah, To the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, March 2024

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#### **Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:**

The purposes and objectives of the International Institute of Space Law include the promotion of the further development of space law and the expansion of the rule of law in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes; the holding of meetings, colloquia and competitions on juridical and social science aspects of space activities; the preparation or commissioning of studies and reports; the publication of books, proceedings, and position papers; and cooperation with appropriate international organizations and national institutions in the field of space law.

The IISL was founded in 1960 as an independent non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering the development of space law in partnership with various international and national institutions. The membership of the IISL is composed of individuals and institutions from almost 50 countries, whom have been elected on the basis of their contributions to the field of space law or other social sciences related to space activities.

The IISL continues to engage with issues of relevance to UNCOPUOS and build capacity in the area of space law for the benefit of all delegations. The IISL holds its annual Colloquium on current issues in space law at the International Astronautical Congress. During the annual Colloquia, the IISL strives to address topics that are of real interest to all space actors. The IISL continues to implement its commitment to expanded global outreach and capacity building through projects such as its Knowledge Constellation and the annual Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, which has been organised since 1992.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2023-24**

These are a few highlights of our activities over the past year:

During this year's Legal Sub-Committee, the Institute, along with the European Centre for Space Law, will organize a highly informative Symposium on the topic "Capacity Building in Space Law." This symposium will incorporate global perspectives that examine how space law can continue to be advanced and developed. I would like to invite you all to join us on 24 April, starting at 1:00 p.m. in room M2.

The 66th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held as part of the 74th IAC in Baku. A number of topics were covered in the Colloquium, many of which have direct relevance on the work of UNCOPUOS as a whole, including sessions on large constellations, activities on celestial bodies, governance in the new space age, supervision of space activities, and debris remediation. Additionally, the

annual IAA-IISL Scientific-Legal Roundtable was held on issues related to Space Launch from Celestial Bodies.

The 18th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held in Washington, D.C. in December 2023. The symposium featured panels that addressed issues related to space sustainability, Resource utilization, and international cooperation.

The IISL presented several awards to distinguished members of the space law community in 2022. The IISL Distinguished Service Award to Lesley Jane Smith; the Young Achievers Award to Rosanna Hoffmann and to Maruska Strah; the Certificate of Gratitude to Henry Hertzfeld, Ulrike Bohlmann, Gopal Krishnan, Teja Dobnik, and Nikoleta Vassileva.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS**

In addition to these activities, the IISL working group to study light pollution issues caused by satellites completed its work and issued its report. We have submitted a conference room paper on these issues. The IISL has also formed working groups on the legal issues related to SETI and legal issues related to the use of Artificial Intelligence in space activities. Following a successful conclusion of the work on Space Traffic Management in collaboration with the International Academy of Aeronautics and the International Astronautical Federation, we are now continuing the work of the IISL STM Working Group.

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The IISL is honoured to cooperate with COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies in the further development of space law. In particular, the IISL is

prepared to assist as appropriate in carrying out background studies needed for the consideration and information of COPUOS. Certain areas that may require legal regulation may need preparatory work that IISL might be able to carry out for the consideration of COPUOS. The IISL will be honored to continue to be of assistance.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!