

SLC 2022

Observations and Conclusions

1. The United Nations/Chile Conference on Space Law and Policy: on Governance and Legal Perspectives on Space Activities in Earth Orbit and Beyond highlighted numerous aspects of global governance of outer space activities, principles of international space law, and mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration on space activities.
2. The fundamental principles of space law remain relevant and topical even after more than 50 years since they were enshrined in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. Approaches to implement those principles have ranged from formal treaty-making in the early days to the adoption of principles, and now to modern voluntary instruments such as the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, adopted by COPUOS 2019, which marks a new chapter in applying a multilateral approach to the progressive development of space law.
3. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee remain instrumental in providing the international forum for strengthening governance and cooperation. The multilateral approach to solving global problems in space will remain essential in addressing emerging issues.
4. The international space community is encouraged to work together on finding suitable solutions to common challenges. Among other matters being addressed are emerging environmental concerns and ensuring the safety of space operations. Space traffic management, the utilization of space resources, and the protection of dark and quiet skies are examples of novel areas where multilateral discussions are currently undertaken.
5. Multilateralism offers opportunities for all States to contribute to the global governance of outer space activities and the progressive development of international space law.
6. As space becomes more accessible to new actors, the fundamental principle in the Outer Space Treaty that States are under an obligation to provide authorization and continuing supervision for the activities of their non-governmental entities is more important now than ever before. In this regard, States are encouraged to develop national coordination mechanisms with their private actors in order to facilitate fulfilling their treaty obligations.
7. The implementation of international space law into national regulatory frameworks allows States to consider ways to promote the space economy and use their national and commercial space programmes in order to gain the benefits of space science and technology for their citizens.

8. Greater capacity building is key for States to make the most out of what space has to offer. Robust space laws and policies at the national level can facilitate many aspects of capacity building; from inspiring students, particularly young girls, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to building national and commercial capacity to operate space assets. In this regard, it was recognized that there were many opportunities to strengthen capacity-building in the field of space science and technology and their application, and space law and policy, through student-centered programmes in universities and educational institutions at all levels thereby making a catalyst for growth and economic development.
