

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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Statement by P.J. Blount,
Executive Secretary of the International Institute of Space Law
To the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, 2021
Agenda Item 4

Ms. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

The IISL has, as usual, submitted a written report covering our activities since the previous Legal Subcommittee. Now, I will provide some highlights and would like to refer you to the written text for more details.

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.

In 2020, the IISL celebrated its 60th Anniversary. Though the Global Pandemic made the in person events planned to mark this occasion impossible, the IISL used the situation as an opportunity to reflect on the Institute's working methods with a view to continuing on its path towards ensuring its continued relevance to and impact in the community it serves.

With the speed of innovative developments in the information-driven society that we currently live in, it is to be expected that the changes we experience in the next ten years will be even more significant than those of the past ten years. With IISL's outstanding membership of both experienced and emerging scholars and professionals, the Institute is in an excellent position to have a greater focus on its mission while being agile at the same time. We, therefore, believe that IISL is well equipped to respond to and influence the dramatic developments in the field of outer space while focusing on its core mission of ensuring the maintenance of the rule of law in outer space.

[IISL Awards](#)

The IISL presented several awards to distinguished members of the space law community in 2020. I am especially pleased to report that the Institute conferred the IISL Lifetime Achievement Award to both Dr. Stephen Doyle and Prof. José Monserrat Filho. The IISL Distinguished Service Award was presented to Prof. Dr. Mahulena Hofmann. The 2020 IISL Young Achiever's Award was given to Dr. Catherine Doldirina. and the Certificate of Gratitude was awarded to Prof. Melissa de Zwart. The Diederiks-Verschoor Award was given to Tejas Bharadwaj for his paper "Protecting the Dark Skies of the Earth from Satellite Constellations under International Space Law," presented at the IAC Cyberspace Edition.

ACTIVITIES IN 2020-21

These are a few highlights of our activities since the previous Legal Subcommittee and to date in 2021:

[April 2021: UN COPUOS](#)

During this year's Legal Sub-Committee, the Institute, along with the European Centre for Space Law, has organized a highly informative Symposium on the topic "Space Law for the Global Space Economy."

[October 2020: The 63rd Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space](#)

The 63th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held virtually as part of the 71st IAC Cyberspace Edition. The Young scholars section highlighted research from nine emerging scholars and featured the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture, which was given by Prof. Stephan Hobe of University of Cologne and was titled "A New Format for Space Law?". A number of other topics were covered in the Colloquium many of which have direct relevance on the work of the Legal Subcommittee and UNCOPUOS as a whole. There were sessions on legal issues of Moon and Mars Settlement, Legal Implications of Evolving Remote Sensing Technologies, Application of Space Law to Cyber Activities, Space Law in a Networked World, and on recent developments in space law. The annual IAA-IISL roundtable was postponed until the upcoming IAC in Dubai.

[September 2020: Symposium on Maintaining the Rule of Law in Outer Space in an Age of Rapid Innovation](#)

On 20 September 2020, the IISL organized - in partnership with the Chinese Society of Astronautics, China Institute of Space Law, and the Space Law Center of China National Space Administration - the Symposium on Maintaining the Rule of Law in Outer Space in an Age of Rapid Innovation. This conference was hybrid in nature with an on the ground portion held in Fuzhou, China and international participation held virtually.

[December 2020: 15th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law](#)

The 15th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held virtually in December 2020. The symposium featured two panels and addressed issues that the global pandemic presented for space law and policy.

Coming in 2021:

[October 2021: 64th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space](#)

Topics to be addressed at the 64th IISL Colloquium to be held in conjunction with the 72nd IAC in Dubai include international cooperation in Moon and Mars exploration, space traffic management, space and trade and finance law, Newspace, and space security interfaces with national law.

The world finals of the 30th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition will be held during the 2021 Colloquium. Three Judges of the International Court of Justice have been invited to judge the Finals. Regional rounds will be held in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia Pacific, and the newly added region of Latin America.

COLLABORATION

The IISL notes the important Legal Subcommittee agenda item for the general exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management. The IISL concluded a second agreement with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) in October 2018, following onto the one executed the year before. This second agreement commits the three organizations to collaborate on the important issues surrounding space traffic management. The three organizations have nominated

representatives and work has commenced with the intention of presenting ideas to the combined memberships in the near future.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The IISL is honored 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 the Institute might be able to carry out for the consideration of COPUOS. The IISL will be honored to continue to be of assistance.