

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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International Institute of Space Law, Agenda Item 5
Statement by P.J. Blount,
Executive Secretary of the International Institute of Space Law
To the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, June 2022

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

The purposes and objectives of the International Institute of Space Law include the promotion of further development of space law and 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, reports and position papers, and the 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 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 is active in the legal issues connected to topics such as space traffic management, through a trilateral study with the IAF and the IAA, and sustainability, through the recent adoption of a board statement. 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 2021-22

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, has organized a highly informative Symposium on the topic "National Laws and Regulations to Ensure Space Sustainability." This symposium incorporated global perspectives that examined how the principles flowing from the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines are being transposed into domestic mechanisms for both government and commercial operators. The symposium served to highlight the symbiotic nature of technical governance and the rule of law.

The 64th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held as part of the 72nd IAC in Dubai. 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 International cooperation on the Moon and Mars, Space Traffic Management, trade and finance law relevant to space activities, national space law and security, NewSpace, and on recent developments in space law. Additionally, the annual IAA-IISL Scientific-Legal Roundtable was held on issues related to commercialization.

The 15th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held virtually in December 2021. The symposium featured three panels, and addressed issues related to the changing space industry including space resource extraction, coordination of space activities, and private astronauts.

The IISL presented several awards to distinguished members of the space law community in 2021. The IISL Distinguished Service Award was presented to Zhenjun Zhang and the IISL Certificate of Gratitude was awarded to Scarlet O'Donnell and Laetitia Zarkan.

Of particular interest to UNCOPUOS, the IISL Board of Directors adopted a statement on the Consideration of the Interests of the Public and Other Stakeholders in the Authorization and Continuing Supervision of Commercial Space Activities. This statement highlights that commercial space activities should be developed in accordance with the rule of law, for peaceful purposes, and in a manner that is sustainable for the present and future generations. The Board calls on national regulators in charge of authorization and continuing supervision of

commercial space activities to take into account, when authorizing and supervising such activities, the interests of all stakeholders, including the scientific community and the public, and the consequences that such activities may have future exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

The IISL is dedicated to the rule of law both in space and terrestrially. To this end, the President and Officers of the IISL adopted a statement on the situation in Ukraine condemning the illegal acts of aggression that began there in February of this year. In order to show our commitment to peaceful relations both in space and on Earth, the IISL has ceased cooperation with Russian institutions until these illegal hostilities have come to an end.

SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

In addition to these activities, the IISL has formed working groups to study light pollution issues caused by satellites and to study legal issues of large constellations. These groups will work for 2 years and produce complementary reports. Eleven International Publishing publishes the annual IISL Proceedings and has now placed all IISL proceedings online in a fully searchable online portal. More information is available on our website. The IISL has also initiated the IISL Knowledge Constellation as an outreach mechanism. This web-based platform presents space law in an accessible manner for both practitioners and the general public.

COLLABORATION

Further, the IISL has 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 by the International Astronautical Congress in Paris.

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