

Opening Statement by the National Space Society

(Exchange of Views during COPUOS 61st Session LSC, March – April 2022)

Chair, UN Secretariat, and distinguished delegates. My name is Dan Hawk, I am Bear Clan, Iroquois Confederacy, Oneida. I am honored to address this 61st Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a member and on behalf of the National Space Society.

The National Space Society or NSS is an international non-governmental organization in operation since 1986, the result of a merger between the LS Society and the National Space Institute. We were honored to have become a Permanent Observer to this body in 2001 and are grateful for the opportunity to continue participating in and contributing to the important work of supporting space exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The NSS vision is: “People living and working in thriving communities beyond Earth, and the use of the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity.” To help realize this vision, we engage and enlist people from all countries and groups who believe in peaceful and cooperative space settlement and the wise and sustainable use of its resources.

Our direct reach exceeds 700,000 people, including members, donors, Ad Astra magazine subscribers, web & social media followers, conference/chapter/fora participants, and students in programs and contests. We welcome members from all walks-of-life who embrace our vision, and in turn, our members work passionately and energetically to assure access to space for all, especially those in historically disadvantaged communities.

Indeed, the NSS is deeply committed to the concept that space is for everyone. We have chapters in Australia, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, and South Africa, and we welcome more. I am proud to be working with NSS to constitute chapter-supporting Indigenous communities in the United States and Canada and giving them not just a voice in space but promoting their right and opportunity to engage in space activities.

To achieve our space settlement and human betterment vision, NSS priorities include:

- **Clean energy from space.** In line with UN Sustainable Development Goals numbers 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and 13 (Climate Action), NSS has been promoting solar power from space for years. As part of our effort to support the development of and financial support for this important technology, we share with you again our award-winning video, Dear Earth, which explains the benefits of clean and unlimited space-based solar power. This and a broad menu of free programming can be found on our You Tube channel, youtube.com backslash national space society (<https://www.youtube.com/nationalspacesociety>). In fact,

we host bimonthly forums on all aspects of space exploration and are delighted to include these recordings, as well as much more, for free to all.

- We shared more information about our efforts to support Space Solar Power, including a proposal for a legal framework allowing for international collaboration, during our Technical Presentation on March 29, 2022. If you missed that presentation, we hope you check it out soon.
- **Defending Earth against asteroids and comets.** NSS has for years supported funding the NEOWISE satellite and other systems for spotting dangerous Near-Earth Objects (NEOs). In our ongoing effort to defend the Earth from NEOs, NSS also has published a video outlining the NEO danger and urging the creation of systems to spot and eventually deflect dangerous asteroids and comets. This video is also available on our You Tube channel.
- **International Development of Space Resources.** In line with the Outer Space Treaty, the Artemis Accords, and Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (right to private property), NSS members have over the years generated papers, byline articles, and talks concerning the wisdom of cooperative, bottom-up governance and industrial best practices by public and private actors to utilize, develop, and share space resources to benefit all humanity.
- **Capacity Building.** The NSS President's Legal Council provides advice and counsel to the NSS regarding space law and policy issues and assists in the preparation of important policy papers. Both programs aim to provide the next generation of lawyers, wherever they may be from, with the experience, knowledge, and background they need to fully support the unfettered growth of the space industry as space law (and commercial space law in particular) evolve and mature.
- NSS also sponsors several programs for younger students, including, among many others, the Space Settlement Contest. This annual contest is for all students at up to 12th grade from anywhere in the world. While this year's finalists have been selected, we encourage submissions for 2022 (<https://space.nss.org/settlement/nasa/Contest/>).
- **Annual International Space Development Conference (ISDC).** Every year NSS is proud to host an international space conference where representatives and thought leaders from government, private industry, and academia join to share ideas and innovations. After cancelling in 2020 and going virtual in 2021, we are delighted to be in-person, COVID willing, in May 2022. We hope you will join us in Washington, D.C. on May 27-29 for this event. More information can be found on our Website space.nss.org.

Chair, our Indigenous participation is fundamental to the NSS vision, and I am pleased to announce a White House-supported Intertribal Space Conference to be held November

15th thru the 17th in cooperation with the Oklahoma Air and Spaceport. The Conference will be held at the Western Technological Center at Burns Flat, Oklahoma

As evidenced by this, our first tribal space conference, Indigenous People acknowledge the vision and priorities of the National Space Society for everyone to have equal access to space as human right. Indigenous People are directly supporting NSS priorities by working to secure a land-based Space Solar Power test range with environmental permits, to work on the "Pulverize It" planetary defense model, and to ensure best practices to minimize waste in space development and exploration.

Thank you all for this opportunity to tell you about our dynamic organization!

Dan Hawk

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