

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, March 2023

Madame 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 2022-23

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 "Legal Aspects of Dark and Quiet Skies." This symposium will incorporate global perspectives that will examine how space activities can coexist with scientific investigation. The Institute will soon be releasing a comprehensive study which will be useful to the Committee as it considers these issues. The Institute in partnership with the Japanese Delegation also organized a hybrid side event on the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management, which highlighted the legal challenges connected to safe and sustainable space operations.

The 65th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held as part of the 73rd IAC in Paris. 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 dispute settlement, space science, space

sustainability, and safety zones on celestial bodies. Additionally, the annual IAA-IISL Scientific-Legal Roundtable was held on issues related to Autonomous Intelligent Systems in Space.

The 16th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held in Washington, D.C. in December 2022. The symposium featured panels that addressed issues related to space security, celestial bodies, and emerging space activities.

The IISL presented several awards to distinguished members of the space law community in 2022. The IISL Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Steven Freeland, the Distinguished Service Award to Melissa Force, the Young Achievers Award to Deepika Jeyakodi, the Certificate of Gratitude to Lulu Makapela, and the Diederiks Verschoor Award to Antonino Salmeri.

SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

In addition to these activities, the IISL formed a working group to study light pollution issues caused by satellites that has very recently completed its work and will soon issue its report. It has also brought to a conclusion a collaborative study on Space Traffic Management conducted in cooperation with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). Eleven International Publishing publishes the annual IISL Proceedings and has now placed all IISL proceedings online in a fully searchable online portal. 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. More information is available on our website.

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.