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Statement by the
International Institute of Space Law (IISL), Agenda Item 11
Represented by Diane Howard,
Returning Co-Chair of the IISL
Space Traffic Management Working Group,
To the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, May 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

I am honoured to take the floor and share with you the International Institute of Space Law remarks on Space Traffic Management.

The IISL joins the delegations that expressed their views of support for continuing our consideration of STM. We strongly believe that this dialogue, in an international forum such as UN COPUOS, must continue. This is true now more than ever.

STM remains relevant for the entire global space community. Together, we must work to develop a set of regulatory provisions based upon technical capabilities and operational realities. This is what is needed to ensure that **all** of our operations in space are conducted in a secure and responsible way, and that our return to Earth is also safe.

I will briefly recap the Institute's interest and activities with respect to STM.

In 2018, The International Institute of Space Law, the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Astronautical Federation signed a trilateral agreement, committing the three organizations to collaborate on issues relevant for STM. Following this agreement, IISL established a working group dedicated to STM, comprised of international legal experts. The group has presented their work by producing an analysis paper, identifying gaps and inconsistencies in the legal framework with respect to authorization and continuing supervision for space activities within the context of Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty. The outcomes of the working

group mapped the necessary steps for a successful implementation of STM standards and the findings of the working group were presented during the International Astronautical Congress in October 2023. Since 2018, the IISL STM Working Group continues to work with colleagues in the IAA and the IAF and is pleased to note the work of the IAF's Technical Committee 26.

We are also proud to note that the Institute has made STM a topic of discussion in the ECSL/IISL Symposia before it became an agenda item in 2016 when the current IISL President, Kai-Uwe Schrogl, was Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. We now approach the 10th anniversary of STM as an agenda item in the LSC. The IISL would like to work with Member States and delegations as they evaluate proposals for an effective mechanism to continue the STM discussion in UNCOPUOS. The IISL supports the discussions in the Committee and is happy to contribute to Member States in their efforts related to STM governance. And, as we plan for UNISPACE IV, let us remember the goodness that UNISPACE III provided to our global space community and the effective methods of work that resulted.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by saying that IISL remains committed to contributing our legal and policy expertise on the topic of STM. Our group of experts continues to work and we remain available to support delegations as Legal Subcommittee chooses its way forward to continue STM discussion. The IISL is proud of our permanent observer role in COPUOS and are ready, willing, and able to connect with all of you and take the work of this Committee further in all ways appropriate, whether by contributing to studies or other preparatory work for the consideration of the Committee.

We look forward to hearing from other delegations about their perspectives and approaches to the legal and regulatory aspects of space traffic management and look forward to contributing our expertise where delegations see fitting.

Thank you, for your kind attention.