

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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IISL, Agenda Item 4

Statement of the International Institute of Space Law
by Donna Lawler
to the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, May 2025

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 members from more than 50

countries on all continents, comprising government, agency, academia, industry and private practice

The IISL, as a global platform for exchange of ideas 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 2024-25

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 "Due Regard in Outer Space: Current Legal Implications." This symposium will incorporate global perspectives that examine how space law can continue to be advanced and developed.

The 67th IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held as part of the 75th IAC in Milan, Italy. 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 near-space activities, artificial intelligence, launch law, and regional space law mechanisms.

Additionally, the annual IAA-IISL Scientific-Legal Roundtable was held on issues related to cybersecurity in space. The Institute also held the World Finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition at the Milan IAC. The case of Angani v. Bolvanger was presided over by three sitting judges of the International Court of Justice and the winning team was the Singapore Management University.

The 19th Eilene Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held in Washington, D.C. in December 2024. The symposium featured panels that addressed issues related to space sustainability, resource utilization, and international cooperation. The institute also organizes symposia at the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs and at the China Space Conference in Shanghai.

The IISL presented several awards to distinguished members of the space law community in 2022. These include the IISL Lifetime Achievement Award to Marco Ferrazzani; the Distinguished Service Award to Rafael Moro-Aguillar; the Young Achievers Award to Ruvimbo Samanga and Scarlet O'Donnell; and the Certificate of Gratitude to Yu Takeuchi, Jairo Becerra, and Laura Gamarra-Amaya.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to these activities, the IISL working group on Legal Aspects of AI in Space completed its work and issued its report, which will be the subject of a technical presentation at this year's LSC. The IISL has also formed working groups on Next Steps in STM, SETI and the Law, the Future of the Moon Agreement, and Pluralistic Governance and International Space Law.

The Institute continues to publish the annual *Proceedings of the IISL*, which contains papers from the Institutes events throughout the year.

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.