

**IISL/ECSL Symposium at the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the legal Subcommittee**

**‘Space Traffic management’**

**13 April 2015**

**Presentation by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director UNOOSA  
entitled “ICAO/UNOOSA AeroSpace Symposium – An Inter-Agency  
Effort on Space Traffic management”**

Distinguished delegates,

I will begin this presentation with some general remarks and then my colleague Mr. Niklas Hedman will present the organization of the Symposium.

The joint Symposium organized by ICAO and UNOOSA was indeed a great success with attendance of nearly 350 participants.

The topic of the ICAO/UNOOSA AeroSpace Symposium - *emerging space activities and civil aviation - challenges and opportunities* - encompasses what represents a pivotal issue as more and more actors enter the space arena and it is becoming more and more evident that developments in future aerospace activities will impact on the application and implementation of space law and air law instruments.

In my view, after three engaging days of the Symposium, this was also a pertinent conclusion.

The main objective of the Symposium was to provide a platform for dialogue among stakeholders of the aviation and space community. This was the first event of its kind and truly unique.

We clearly met that goal. We brought together representatives of the aviation community and the space community at governmental and non-governmental level, including the commercial and private space sector, to explore existing regulatory mechanisms and practices in aviation and space transportation. We were thus able to explore challenges and opportunities

related to emerging space activities, in particular commercial space transportation and suborbital flights.

The Air Navigation Bureau of ICAO and UNOOSA have through this event made joint efforts to facilitate the strengthening of a dialogue between the aviation and space communities, and therefore this joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium can only be just the first step in our collaboration. This bilateral inter-agency coordination effort between ICAO and UNOOSA will be brought forward, and it is with great pleasure I note that the United Arab Emirates has offered to host a follow up Symposium next year, 2016.

Over those days covered by the Symposium in Montreal I received a number of positive remarks by participants to the effect that we are on the right track in providing the means for this important cross sectorial dialogue.

As UNOOSA is mandated to lead the Inter Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), which is the central inter-agency coordination mechanisms in the UN system on overarching space matters, I am pleased to see that this bilateral cooperation and coordination achievement with ICAO on subject matters of utmost relevance to the space and aviation communities is successfully set in motion.

Distinguished delegates,

Among the areas covered by COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies which have direct relevance to the theme of this particular Aerospace Symposium, are, for example, the considerations on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; consideration of legal issues related to aerospace objects and suborbital flights; space debris mitigation measures; the establishment of coordination mechanisms on handling of near-Earth object (asteroid) impact threats; and the consideration of space weather prediction, forecasting and monitoring mechanisms.

The inter-relationship and dialogue between major space faring nations and emerging space nations relating to increased international cooperation and capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing countries provide fundamental prerequisites for success over the years. The space agenda is evolving and becoming more complex, not least considering the broader concept of space security, as well as the expanding commercial

space sector. The nature of space activities is evolving to meet those realities.

With the evolution of the space awareness in society, COPUOS is positioning itself at the forefront of the sustainable development process tackling issues related to transparency and confidence-building measures and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Essential elements covering crucial areas of enhancing the safety of space operations, include space debris mitigation and monitoring, accuracy of orbital data, conjunction assessment, tools for space situational awareness, models and tools for space weather prediction, notification procedures of launches and controlled re-entries, and standards for sharing orbital information. Clearly the objectives of the joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium connect well to those main pillars.

Given the growing number of benefits derived from space science and technology applications, the conduct of space activities by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, as well as the commercial and private sector, continues to expand rapidly, which was also demonstrated at the ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium.

Space tools are fundamental to meeting the challenges to humanity and sustainable development and the overarching space security environment in its broader sense caters for global space governance. It is in this context I see outstanding prospects for strengthened involvement and exchange of experience among all relevant stakeholders in this emerging field of innovative space activities and civil aviation.

Leading up to the Symposium held at Montreal, ICAO had established an interactive platform for sharing of information and experience among different stakeholders nominated by States and international organizations. This so called Learning Group proved highly engaging and successful in the preparatory phase of the Symposium. This process will continue and the learning Group, now under the leadership on UNOOSA and ICAO will constitute a fundamental prerequisite for the next step. I therefore look forward to a continuation of the successful ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium and to an engaging dialogue in preparation for the next Symposium to be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in 2016.

Thank you. I now give the floor to Mr. Hedman.