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Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

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Note by the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. Replies received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization

[Original: English]

[18 January 2021]

The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) has engaged in the following activities related to space law:

Strategy on space law and policy 2021–2030

In its first decade of operation, APSCO focused mainly on issues related to capacity-building in space law and policy. The first development plan of APSCO (2012–2020) included areas related to capacity-building in space law, participation in the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, representation of APSCO at important international forums and establishing a knowledge exchange platform by organizing a biennial conference, workshops and forums on space law and policy.

APSCO is now entering a new decade of activity, and a new development plan for APSCO activities (2020–2030) is being drafted. In this regard, a comprehensive vision for space law and policy for the new decade, referred to as the “Strategy for space law and policy of APSCO (2021–2030)”, has been developed by the APSCO Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs. The strategy focuses on enhancing the role of APSCO in the field of space law and policy to provide more practical benefits to member States and on strengthening the contribution of APSCO in the international community in the fields of space law and policy.

The APSCO strategic plan on space law and policy focuses on the following key areas:

- (a) Capacity-building in space law and policy for member States;
- (b) Assistance in developing national space law and policy for member States;
- (c) International cooperation in space law and policy;
- (d) Developing a regional and international alliance of space law institutions.

Cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat on capacity-building in national space law

APSCO was in continuous contact with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to discuss and deliberate on the proposal for joint cooperation between APSCO and the Office on capacity development in national space legislation. More than 10 online meetings were held from January to June 2020, with officials from the Office, space law experts and finance and legal departments deliberating on the details of the proposal. The final proposal was concluded after those mutual efforts and was approved by the fourteenth meeting of the APSCO Council, held in December 2020, for implementation in 2021.

Cooperation with the European Space Agency in space law and policy

The External Relations and Legal Affairs Department of APSCO held three virtual meetings with Marco Ferrazzani, Head of the Legal Services Department of the

European Space Agency (ESA), from January to April 2020. During those meetings, the discussion included possible future cooperation in the field of space law and a general exchange of views on legal issues related to the work of intergovernmental organizations.

APSCO and ESA both agreed to engage in mutual cooperation in the field of space law and policy under the protocol signed by both agencies. In the year 2021, an international workshop/conference on space law and policy will be jointly organized by APSCO and ESA.

Workshop on space law held in Jordan

Aisha Jagirani, Director General of the Department of External Relations and Legal Affairs of APSCO, delivered a lecture on the topic “Capacity-building in space law: role of intergovernmental organizations”, which was held on 17 June 2020 and organized by the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia (Jordan) and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (China). The lecture was delivered through the virtual space platform of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia and was attended by participants from many other organizations in the Middle East and Arab region, such as the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences, Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology (United Arab Emirates), Cairo University (Egypt), the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (Egypt), the Arab Regional Office of Astronomy for Development, the Monastir Science Palace (Tunisia), the Syrian Astronomical Society, the Sudanese Society for Astronomy and Space Science, the Jordanian Astronomical Society and the Arab League for Astronomy and Space Sciences.

Capacity-building in space law

APSCO contributes to building capacity in the field of space law and policy in its Member States and has been organizing a space law and policy workshop/forum biennially since 2011, as well as training activities back to back with those events, as part of its two knowledge exchange platforms. Those events provide a unique knowledge-sharing platform for executives at national space agencies and space authorities in member States of APSCO to learn from each other’s experiences and create a common understanding of the legal and policy challenges confronting the outer space environment. They also provide a chance to share developments in their national space laws, new national space legislation and developments in space policies. In 2019, APSCO and Turkey co-organized, together with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Conference on Space Law and Policy, which attracted around 160 participants from 45 countries and five international organizations.

In 2021, APSCO will cooperate with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement a joint technical workshop on national space legislation for APSCO member States, which will last for an entire year and can be a good, fresh start for new practice in the area of capacity-building in space law.

In addition, APSCO will also organize a space law conference in 2021 and is now looking for cooperation partners. Considering the situation regarding the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the conference will be organized in a combined online/on-site format. Both the joint technical workshop and the conference will benefit APSCO member States and international participants in capacity-building bodies.

International Institute of Space Law

[Original: English]
[26 January 2021]

1. Sixtieth anniversary of the International Institute of Space Law

The International Institute of Space Law (IISL) celebrated its sixtieth anniversary at a difficult time. Owing to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Institute could not hold its major events in 2020. That is particularly sad because the Institute had planned to celebrate the anniversary with the participation of its members. There is indeed much to celebrate.

In terms of its membership, IISL can be proud that, during the past decade, it has been successful in bringing together space lawyers from a number of countries and varying backgrounds, such as academics, government and industry employees, and those in legal practice. It is noteworthy that the Institute has a growing number of enthusiastic and capable young members.

The Institute has also made itself increasingly relevant to the space law community by expanding and improving its flagship events, such as symposiums, conferences and the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, and the publication of the proceedings of its annual symposiums, its website and its motivating social media presence. The impact of IISL and its work is particularly visible through its contribution as a permanent observer in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The sixtieth anniversary of IISL coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. With all the disadvantages that the pandemic has presented, it has also made it possible to reflect on the Institute's working methods. This should, of course, be done with a view to continuing on the Institute's path towards expanding its membership and its programmes to make itself more relevant and impactful to the community it serves.

With the speed of innovative developments in today's information-driven society, it is to be expected that the changes experienced in the next 10 years will be even more significant than those of the past 10 years. With its outstanding membership of experienced and young people, the Institute is in an excellent position to place a greater focus on its mission while being agile at the same time. The Institute therefore believes that it is well equipped to respond to and influence the dramatic developments in the field of outer space while focusing on its core mission of ensuring the maintenance of the rule of law in outer space.

We note with sadness the passing of two long-time members: Ambassador (Professor) Aldo Armando Cocca (1924–2020) and Professor Luboš Perek (1919–2020).

2. Objectives and organization of the Institute

The purposes and objectives of IISL 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, colloquiums and competitions on juridical and social science aspects of space activities, the preparation or commissioning of studies and reports, the publication of books, proceedings, reports and position papers, and cooperation with appropriate international organizations and national institutions in the field of space law.

IISL holds an annual colloquium at the International Astronautical Congress and did so as part of the 2020 Congress (Cyberspace Edition). During the colloquium, the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture takes place, as does a special session for young scholars. IISL strives to address topics that are of interest to all space actors and invites all attendees of the Congress to attend and participate in its sessions.

In addition, the Institute organizes a variety of conferences on space law throughout the year in locations all over the world. It publishes an annual volume of IISL proceedings with papers and reports on all of its activities during the year.

IISL is officially recognized as a permanent observer at sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The Board of Directors of IISL is currently composed of the following officers: President: Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Germany); Vice-Presidents: Setsuko Aoki (Japan) and Diane Howard (Canada/United States of America); Executive Secretary: P.J. Blount (United States); Treasurer: Dennis J. Burnett (United States); and members: Frans G. von der Dunk (Netherlands), Marco Ferrazzani (Italy), Steven Freeland (Australia), Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz (United States), Mahulena Hofmann (Czechia), Corinne Jorgenson (United States), Armel Kerrest (France), Peter Martinez (South Africa), Martha Mejia-Kaiser (Mexico), Elina Morozova (Russian Federation), Lesley-Jane Smith (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Milton “Skip” Smith (United States), Olga Stelmakh-Drescher (Ukraine/Germany), Maureen Williams (United Kingdom/Argentina) and Zhenjun Zhang (China). The Institute has about 450 elected members from 50 countries. Membership categories include individual, prospective and institutional membership.¹

3. Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition

Since 1992, IISL has organized the annual Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. The Competition is based on a hypothetical space law case, written by IISL members, and around 60 student teams from universities in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and North America participate. The Competition is an important part of the organization’s outreach programme and its principal mechanism for engaging future generations of space law experts. The regional champions compete in the world finals, which are held at the International Astronautical Congress and are judged each year by judges from the International Court of Justice. This unique feature makes the Manfred Lachs Moot Court one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the world.

In 2020, the regional finalists argued the case *Valenkova v. SaRidia*, which concerned jurisdiction and control in outer space, space situational awareness and orbital debris. The parties agreed to submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice for resolution. Information on the case is available on the IISL website.² **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

The semi-final and final rounds were held virtually. From a field of teams competing across five continents in four regional rounds over the past year, the teams from the Georgetown University Law Center (North America), the National Law University, Delhi (Asia-Pacific), the University of Pretoria (Africa) and the University of Vienna (Europe) were victorious in their respective regional competitions and advanced to compete in the semi-final rounds.

The world finals were held on Friday, 23 October 2020, between the National Law University, Delhi (Asia-Pacific) and the University of Vienna (Europe). Shubh Arora and Abhishek Jain argued on behalf of the National Law University, Delhi (Applicant). Hristina Talkova and Rosanna Hoffman argued on behalf of the University of Vienna (Respondent). The finals were judged by three members of the International Court of Justice, Judge Peter Tomka (Presiding Judge), Judge Joan Donoghue and Judge Kirill Gevorgian. The names used in the case honoured female pioneers in space and science. Special thanks go to the European Centre for Space

¹ See www.iislweb.org/members.html.

² See <https://iislweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Lachs-Moot-Court-Problem-2020-Valenkova-v-SaRidia.pdf>.

Law and its Executive Secretary, Chehineze Bouafia, for hosting the online video platform.

The winner of the Manfred Lachs Trophy for the winning team and the Lee Love Award was the National Law University, Delhi, represented by Abhishek Jain, Shubh Arora and Anmol Dhawan. The runner-up, the University of Vienna, was represented by Hristina Talkova, Rosanna Hoffman and Katharina Harreiter. The Eilene Galloway Award for Best Memorials was presented to the University of Vienna, and the trophy plaque and certificate for the Sterns and Tennen Award for Best Oralists were presented to Hristina Talkova of the University of Vienna.

In addition to the 2020 competition, a Latin American test round was held, also virtually. The test round included five teams, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile prevailed. It is planned to add the Latin American region as a fifth region to the competition beginning in 2021. The Moot Court Committee also organized a virtual demonstration round for the competition between Amity University (Dubai) and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile).

4. Conferences

As already noted, the ability of IISL to sponsor and host events was dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, IISL did host several events over the past year.

IISL was invited to be a co-organizer of the 2019 International Symposium on the Peaceful Use of Space Technology (Health), co-hosted by Chinese institutions led by the Chinese Society of Astronautics from 18 to 20 November 2019 in Zhuhai, China. The symposium was an outstanding opportunity for dialogue with the broad expertise in space law present in numerous Chinese governmental, academic and commercial institutions.

The fourteenth Eilene M. Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., on 11 December 2019, once more to standing room only, with over 100 attendees. The Symposium featured keynote speakers and provocative panels, including international academics and practitioners, highlighting the challenges of the development of both domestic and international space law and the interaction of space law with physics, regulation, commercial development, robotic and human exploration and political philosophy. The 2020 Symposium was held virtually.

On 14 December 2019, Moscow hosted the Third Annual All-Russian Meeting of the International Institute of Space Law, on the theme “Half a century in action: international space law and current challenges”. The meeting was held on the premises of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, an institutional member of IISL, and drew more than 60 participants, including experts in the field of international space law and other related areas of science, representatives of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, commercial companies and the professional media, and students and lecturers from leading educational centres and scientific institutes.

In partnership with the Chinese Society of Astronautics, the China Institute of Space Law and the Space Law Center of the China National Space Administration, IISL organized the Symposium on Maintaining the Rule of Law in Outer Space in an Age of Rapid Innovation, held on 19 September 2020. The symposium was held in a hybrid format, with participants attending in person in Fuzhou, China, and international participants attending virtually.

The sixty-third IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held in a virtual format as part of the seventy-first International Astronautical Congress (Cyberspace Edition). The young scholars session highlighted research from nine emerging scholars and featured the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture, which was given by Professor Stephan Hobe of the University of Cologne, Germany, and was entitled “A new format for space law?”. A number of other topics were covered in the

Colloquium, many of which have direct relevance to the work of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a whole. The session on the topic “Moon and Mars settlement: open legal issues” included 15 presentations and probed the lacunae in the law concerning space settlement. Through five presentations, a session on the legal implications of evolving remote sensing technologies investigated how changes in remote sensing technologies created challenges for the legal regime. The session on recent developments featured five presentations on issues of capacity-building in domestic space legislation. Finally, two sessions, on the application of space law to cyberactivities and on space law in a networked world, featured a total of 18 papers that investigated how digitization and digital networking are changing the context of space law. In addition to the regular sessions, the 2020 Colloquium included 10 virtual presentations on a variety of topics.

5. Publications and scholarly work

The Institute continues to publish its annual *Proceedings of the International Institute of Space Law* through Eleven International Publishing. The volume has become the key resource for following the debates on space law and learning about the newest and brightest ideas and perspectives in the field. Currently it is co-edited by P.J. Blount, Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Rafael Moro-Aguilar and Kai-Uwe Schrogl. The compendium includes papers presented at the Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space and other conferences and symposiums in which IISL participates. Additionally, it contains important reports issued by IISL, including the annual report of the Standing Committee on the Status of International Agreements Relating to Activities in Outer Space. This premiere publication in the field of space law is available online.³ Volumes older than three years are available on the Heinonline platform. The IISL proceedings are also available in a fully searchable online portal.⁴

The new IISL website is now live and can be accessed at <http://iislweb.org/>. In addition, the IISL secretariat, in conjunction with the IISL Public Relations Including Social Media Committee, publishes a monthly newsletter providing continuous information about the space law community. Back issues of the newsletter can be accessed through the website.

The IISL also prepared a book to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary. The document charts the history of IISL and its influential role in the development of space law and is available through the IISL website.

6. Awards

The Institute gives several awards and certificates annually to those who have shown outstanding achievement in the field of space law. In 2020, the IISL Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to both Stephen Doyle and Professor José Monserrat Filho. The IISL Distinguished Service Award was presented to Professor Mahulena Hofmann. The 2020 IISL Young Achiever’s Award was given to Catherine Doldirina, and the Certificate of Gratitude was awarded to Professor Melissa de Zwart. The Diederiks-Verschoor Award was given to Tejas Bharadwaj for his paper entitled “Protecting the dark skies of the Earth from satellite constellations under international space law”.

7. Further information

Further information is available from the IISL website (www.iislweb.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/spacelaw) and Twitter account (https://twitter.com/iisl_space).

³ See www.boomdenhaag.nl/en/webshop.

⁴ See www.boomdenhaag.nl/en/webshop/iisl-proceedings-online.