

## **Statement of IISL (International Institute of Space Law)**

**Professor Dr Maureen Williams**  
**Board Member, IISL**

Distinguished participants,

It is a privilege to say a word on behalf of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and its president, Professor Dr Kai-Uwe Schrogl, at the chapter on Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Space Forum.

Our Institute was created almost six decades ago. A time when the famous science-fiction writer, Arthur Clarke, was anticipating that a time will come when only machines shall talk to machines and we'll have to tiptoe away and leave them to it. Shortly after, man made it to space. And shortly after, so did woman. Valentina Tereshkova was the first to make the world stand back in wonder on 16 June 1963 and remains the icon to inspire generations.

I shall briefly address a few landmarks achieved by the international community over the years in the legal field to which this Forum is making important contributions which our Institute is pleased to support.

These landmarks include five international treaties, all of them in force, three sets of UN Principles and a number of UN Declarations where the needs of developing countries and their access to advanced space technologies are the recurring notes. Of a more recent vintage are the Permanent Court of Arbitration's Optional Rules for Arbitration of Disputes relating to Outer Space Activities which became effective on 6 December 2011.

Today we are in different political scenarios and further technological development. The current agenda of the IISL is looking at the challenges brought about by the intersection of cyber security and space security and their new applications, among others HAPS (high altitude pseudo satellites) in need of regulation, suborbital activities and national space legislation to rule them, the mining of asteroids in outer space, the presence of NEOs (near-earth objects) and the risk of their impact on planet earth, capacity building and the elimination of space debris in accordance with international law.

Argentina, our host country today, has shown special interest in outer space activities and their regulation from the early days of the space era. Suffice it to mention the contributions of Ambassador Aldo Armando Cocca, Permanent Representative of Argentina to COPUOS in the sixties and seventies, who took active part in the drafting of the five space treaties. Since then space law became gradually part of the syllabi of the National Institute of Air and Space Law in Argentina, with Ambassador Cocca as the first holder of the chair. In 1969, a now historic Symposium on the Teaching of Space Law in the World was organised at the University of Buenos Aires by Professor Eugène Pépin -then president of the IISL- and Ambassador Aldo Cocca, in the aftermath of the IISL Twelfth Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 5-10 October 1969.

Nowadays space law experts meet frequently at the Argentine Academy of Aerospace Sciences in Buenos Aires where events are held regularly and to which representatives of neighbouring countries are invited. In fact, some of these academics are here today. In addition, the Annual meeting of the Ibero American Institute of Air and Space Law is taking place in Buenos Aires next week and space lawyers from Spain and Latin America shall be discussing various topical space law issues. Also, at this point in time, the idea of a Latin American round within our Institute's annual Moot Court Competition is beginning to gain ground and we expect it materialises.

As to recent space activities in Argentina the SAOCOM mission, involving this country and Italy on emergency management, is one of the most challenging technological projects ever developed in Argentina. It consists of two constellations of two satellites each and the first satellite was launched on 8 October 2018. The Italian Space Agency, for its part, provides four other satellites to this bilateral mission.

2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first UNISPACE Conference, a milestone anniversary which intends to renew and strengthen the UNISPACE mandate as a unique platform highly supported by the International Space Forum and our Institute for the interrelationship between emerging and major space nations.

Meetings like today's are invaluable to raise awareness on all these issues. As time unfolds we look forward to further cooperation with the International Space Forum and, on this note, distinguished delegates, I shall close the statement from the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). Thank you very much.

Buenos Aires, 1 November 2018