

# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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Statement by Maruska Strah,  
Co-Chair of the IISL Space Traffic Management Working Group  
To the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS, April 2024

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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. We wish to join the delegations that expressed their views of support for continuing our consideration of STM and strongly believe that the dialogue in an international forum such as UN COPUOS needs to continue.

STM is relevant for the whole global space community, and we need a set of regulatory and technical provisions to ensure that our operations in space are conducted in a secure way, and that our return to Earth is safe as well.

Let me offer some insights into the activities of the Institute in regard 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.

The Institute regularly contributes to the conversations on STM in global fora. We were honoured to have our STM working group Co-Chair present our work during the STM panel at the policy symposium organized by the Portuguese Space Agency and UNOOSA. We also frequently have STM as a topic during the Colloquia at IAC and during other fora where we discuss developments of national space laws.

We are proud to say that the Institute has made STM a topic of discussion in the ECSL/IISL Symposia before it became an agenda item in 2016. Going towards the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the STM as an agenda item in the LSC, IISL would like to work with Member States and delegations on proposing a Workplan for STM discussion in UNCOPUOS. This Workplan would contribute to the discussions in the Committee and would support Member States in their efforts related to STM governance.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by saying that IISL remains committed to contributing legal and policy expertise on the topic of STM. We are very eager to connect with all of you and take the work of this Committee further by, where appropriate, contribute to studies and 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.