

**Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications, Item 5***“Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law”*

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*Mr. Chair,*

Thank you for giving me the floor. Let me first congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and wish you every success in leading its work. I would also like to express appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Madam Nomfuneko Majaja, for her guidance of the work of this Subcommittee over the past term.

*Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

It is my privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Intersputnik International Organization of Space Communications. Intersputnik brings together twenty-five Member States from Africa, America, Asia and Europe. It was established in 1971 to contribute to international cooperation in space communications and operate an international satellite telecommunications system. This includes space-law related awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts made in cooperation with its Members, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and industry.

To create a shared information space among its Member States, Intersputnik prepared analytical reviews on the current state and prospects of space activities, in particular satellite applications. Last June, Intersputnik held its annual NatSatTel conference to discuss satellite communications and broadcasting with the world’s leading satellite operators, ground solutions providers and analytic agencies. One of the conference round tables was attended by young professionals from the Intersputnik Member States who spoke about the role of youth in bridging the digital divide.

Intersputnik supported young professionals from its Member States by sponsoring their participation in the World Radiocommunication Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held in November-December last

year. At this Conference, we presented a contribution on the agenda items related to space services.

Last June, Intersputnik also contributed to the Workshop “ITU in Service of Space”. We moderated a session on experience sharing by national regulators and sponsored the Workshop translation into the official languages to facilitate a truly international exchange of views.

To expand the talent pool, Intersputnik sponsored participation of young professionals from Member States in the International Astronautical Congress, which took place last October in Azerbaijan. The joint Intersputnik delegation to the Congress included participants from nine countries. Within the Congress programme, we presented a paper on the international regulation for large constellations.

As part of its efforts to build capacity in space law, Intersputnik delivered an annual course of lectures on international space law and telecommunications law, and gave stand-alone lectures on topical issues related to the use of outer space and the management of radio frequencies and satellite orbits.

Last February, Intersputnik took part in the Workshop on risk to aircraft from uncontrolled re-entries of space debris, organized by the Outer Space Institute, the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law, and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. Last September, we were privileged to address the session on space-related legal and ethical considerations in support of the Sustainable Development Goals at the Science Summit around the UN General Assembly.

Another capacity-building initiative is offering young professionals from Member States an opportunity to intern at the Intersputnik International Legal Service, so they could gain knowledge and practical experience in space law and satellite communications. Last year, we mentored three interns and supervised their thesis on the legal regulation of activities related to space resources and maintaining outer space as a peaceful environment.

To conclude, let me remind the *distinguished delegates* that Intersputnik is an intergovernmental organization which operates its satellite system. As such, Intersputnik is a member of the Global Satellite Operators’ Association (GSOA). Last November, we supported the GSOA Code of Conduct on Space Sustainability, which promotes industry space sustainability practices. This was yet another step taken by Intersputnik to foster space sustainability after it had joined the Space Industry Debris Statement. Previously, Intersputnik had accepted the rights and obligations under the UN space treaties.

*Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

I thank you for your kind attention.

