

10th United Nations Workshop on Space Law
Contribution of Space Law and Policy to Space Governance and Space
Security in the 21st Century
Vienna, 5-8 September 2016

Welcome Address by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo
Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, it is my honor to welcome you to our Tenth United Nations Workshop on Space Law. We present this event in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and with co-sponsorship from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Secure World Foundation.

I would particularly like to thank representatives in the Round Table, key-note speakers, and moderators and speakers of each panel, who have decided to give us their time and expertise to ensure that we all get the most out of this Workshop. I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the Ambassador of Austria to the United Nations at Vienna for her generosity in assisting us with bringing moderators and speakers together.

Distinguished Participants,

This Workshop on Space Law is the tenth in a series of workshops that UNOOSA has organized since 2002 around the world and in cooperation and partnership with a

range of countries and organizations. We therefore today celebrate a milestone in this dedicated capacity-building programme of UNOOSA.

This 10th Workshop is unique because it endeavours to stimulate a dialogue on comprehensive perspectives, ranging from space law and policy to governance and space security, including on military and civilian issues and concerns. We also need to consider ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing countries.

Distinguished Participants,

Each year, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, reaffirms the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including relevant norms of space law, and urges States that have not yet become parties to the treaties governing the exploration and use of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to them, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation.

The successful implementation and application of the international legal framework governing the conduct of space activities depends on the understanding and acceptance, by policy- and decision-makers, of the very legal framework to be implemented.

This workshop will provide an overview of the legal regime governing the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, will examine and compare various aspects of the broader perspective of space security in global space governance, and will address space law and policy in the context of UNISPACE+50. Therefore, we wish to achieve the following objectives:

First, to promote understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space; **Second**, to address space governance and the broader perspective of space security, including on norms of behaviour and space policy development; **Third**, to consider space law and policy in the context of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy; **Fourth**, to study trends in, and challenges to, the progressive development of space law; **Fifth**, and lastly, to assess further needs for capacity-building, assistance and outreach in space law and policy.

Bearing this in mind, I would like to briefly touch upon the inter-linkage between the panels of the Workshop.

The **Opening session** today gives us all an opportunity to connect certain important aspects of space law and policy to space governance and space security. The safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities is at the forefront of our discussions. We are preparing for UNISPACE+50, with its profound role in global space governance, and we are building a stronger intergovernmental environment in support of space security. Those fundamental processes will be the centre of gravity of this Workshop.

Panel 1 acts as an introduction to the most topical issues in the development of space law and space policy. Contemporary factors behind considerations of space law development will be examined, in view of trends and approaches that we can witness in the shaping of regulatory and policy frameworks. The panel aims to demonstrate the complexity of regulatory mechanisms and policy development. There is a clear connection between this panel and panels 5 and 6 on capacity-building and the legal regime of outer space, respectively.

Panel 2 on the safety of space operations and security of space systems proceeds on the basis that outer space is a fragile environment, where steps taken by one actor might have impacts on others. The aim of this panel is to increase awareness of the strategic value of space and the growing need to enhance the safety of space operations, the security of space assets, and the sustainability of space systems. Securing the sustainable development of the space environment is a key feature to all of this.

Panel 3 builds upon the preceding panel and predominantly relates to the role of international entities in implementing transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities. In this regard, the panel will bring attention to issues from an institutional and regulatory perspective, aiming at effective overall implementation of TCBMs. An important source for the theme of this panel is the special report of UN-Space on TCBMs issued as document A/AC.105/1116.

Panel 4 on international models and mechanisms for space cooperation and coordination is the core segment to study ways and means to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. International and regional cooperation and coordination among States help to bring the benefits of space science and technology applications to a wide circle of stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, and to intensify and diversify national space programmes with activities that would not be possible without such cooperation. The increasing role of industry and private sector in critical areas of space activities will be addressed, as global space governance will increasingly encompass a broader range of actors. There is a clear connection here with panels 1 and 6, respectively.

Panel 5 on cooperation and capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of developing countries is a traditional element in the series of our space law workshops. It is of particular importance because capacity-building and training is a prime avenue for gaining expertise in this discipline of public international law. The perspectives of capacity-building have been enlarged under this panel in view of the need to consider integrated education and training for more robust and efficient capacity-building actions in the 21st century. This approach therefore connects directly to the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority on capacity-building.

Panel 6 on “The legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives” connects directly to the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority with the same title. Presentations will address the relationship between hard law and soft law, with the aim of looking into potential gaps in the overall legal regime of outer space. The safety of space operations and sustainability of outer space activities are important factors to consider in this context. Furthermore, cooperation and coordination between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space – or COPUOS - require attention in order for the Committee as a whole to be the prime intergovernmental platform for global space governance in the 21st century.

Distinguished Participants,

With the evolution of space activity in society, COPUOS is at the forefront of tackling issues related to space governance, space security, and the sustainability of outer space activities.

The General Assembly, in its resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, has expressed its deep concern about the fragility of the

space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris, which is an issue of concern to all nations.

With this in mind, the near-Earth environment must be considered an integral part of sustainable development for the environment of our Planet as a whole. Perspectives on space governance, space security, law and policy are key elements towards Space2030 - a concept connecting our common space endeavors closer to the global agenda for sustainable development.

Distinguished Participants,

We will have many opportunities these coming days to discuss and assess a number of substantive topics connecting legal matters with other areas of interest, such as governance of space activities, economic and social development, regional cooperation, and capacity-building efforts in space law. I sincerely hope that this event will be useful to our common work towards UNISPACE+50 and beyond, given the unprecedented approach we take here in addressing the broader perspective of space security and global space governance.

On behalf of my UNOOSA Team and our co-partners in this event - Welcome!