

NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY – AGENDA ITEM 5
STATEMENT BY INGRID MÜLLER
National Space Society
65th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Thank you, Chair. Distinguished delegates. My name is Ingrid Müller. I am a dually-trained attorney, in both common law and civil law, having earned several degrees and certifications in international law from renowned academic institutions in the United States and Europe. With extensive experience in internationally focused environments, I volunteer my time and expertise as a member of the National Space Society President's Advisory Council. I am honored to address this 65th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a member and on behalf of the National Space Society.

The NSS is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting space exploration and sustainable activities in space through its members and chapters worldwide. The NSS has been at the forefront of space advocacy for almost half a century.

We are pleased to be the voice of citizens of Earth who share a common goal: People living and working in thriving communities beyond the Earth, and the use of the vast resources of space for the dramatic betterment of humanity. We welcome members from around the world and all walks-of-life who embrace our vision, and in turn, our members work passionately and energetically to assure access to space for all, especially those in historically disadvantaged communities.

We have chapters in Australia, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, and South Africa, and we welcome more. We are proud to be constituting a chapter supporting indigenous communities in the United States and Canada. I myself am working with NSS to develop an EU chapter.

But it is not just about numbers, it is about discourse, advocacy and education. We publish an award-winning magazine, Ad Astra, which provides thought-provoking perspectives from industry leaders in the form of interviews, opinions, articles by technical and legal

experts and original photography and artwork. This publication is free to NSS members and is available both digitally and in hard copy. We are also pleased to continue to offer a regular on-line forum for discussions of space exploration in virtual sessions. On July 21, we will be hosting Lori Garver, a former deputy administrator of NASA. We invite all of you to join.

Last Sunday we concluded our annual International Space Settlement Development Conference in Washington, D.C. Panels and keynotes included discussions of space policy, commercial LEO developments, space law, Mars and lunar developments, space solar power and bio-sustainability. But perhaps the highlight were the students.

The NSS provides many educational opportunities to introduce students to space regardless of their location. Our free on-line space education repository spacEdge.academy contains projects, activities and lessons for students of every age around the world. Our spUN (Space, Policy and Universality) debate program engages high school and college students. This year at ISDC, eight multinational high school student teams debated the resolution: Private sector investment in Lunar space development will better serve humanity and universalization over public sector investment. The winning team was made up of students from South Africa, Peru, Romania and the United States.

More than 17,000 students from 22 different countries participated in our international Space Settlement Contest which challenges students to think about living and working in space. This year's Grand Prize winner was St. Flannen's College Secondary School in Ennis, County Claire, Ireland. Their submission, [*Mag Mell*](#) can be found online.

We are also pleased to announce that we received a generous grant of one million dollars from Blue Origin's Foundation, Club for the Future. We are dedicating this grant specifically to projects that will broaden the depth of our global STEM pipeline to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM and help invent the future of life in space. We are committed to assuring that reach includes students in underserved communities. We take this opportunity to thank Blue Origin and the Club for the Future for their generous and forward-looking gift.

Chair, distinguished delegates, this provides just a glimpse of the work we are doing at NSS. We continue to urge the international community to support space solar power and orbital debris remediation. We believe the formation of a Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities is timely and wise and we look forward to supporting the Working Group in any way we can.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the NSS to congratulate the COPUOS on its 65-year history and wish it continued success. We would also like to thank the Committee's Secretariat and the entire staff of the Office of Outer Space Affairs for all their hard work. We look forward to working with this community – as we all continue to bring the benefits of space to the people of Earth.

If you have any questions or would like more details about the National Space Society, we have included links in the text that will be uploaded to the OOSA website. Please also consult the NSS website at www.nss.org.

Chair and distinguished delegates, it was an honor to present to you. I thank you for your kind attention.