

NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY – AGENDA ITEM 3  
STATEMENT BY DENTON HUNTER  
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60th Session of the Legal Subcommittee  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Thank you, Chair. Distinguished delegates, my name is Denton Hunter, and I am honored to address this 60th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 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. 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.

This is not an easy task. The achievement of this goal requires global collaboration and global responsibility. And we well recognize the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the global governance of outer space activities and the development of international space law and for the promotion of the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives.

We readily offer our services to assist this body in any way we can.

Distinguished delegates, 2020 ravaged our global community. Yet something good also happened. Going virtual allowed us to increase our reach and share the wonders and promise of space with a boundless virtual audience. Although we had to cancel our annual International Space Development Conference, in July we produced “A Day in Space,” a virtual program featuring thought leaders and astronauts who shared perspectives on everything from health to exoplanets to space solar power and Mars exploration. In February, we hosted Space Settlement 2021, a free virtual event showcasing the technologies, people and organizations that will lead humans into space. All of this programming is available for free on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/nationalspacesociety](https://www.youtube.com/nationalspacesociety). (<https://www.youtube.com/nationalspacesociety>).

We also developed an ongoing series of virtual forums and town halls covering all areas of space exploration, development and settlement. These biweekly forums are designed to amplify voices and promote discussion. Past forums are also available on our YouTube channel.

Our International Space Development Conference will be virtual this year, and we invite you all to join us for a series of pre-recorded presentations capped by a live virtual event on June 27, 2021. This year's theme, "Continuing the Journey," will focus on pushing the boundaries of space exploration back to the Moon then Mars, as well as space settlement, space policy, and

space solar power. Details for this event can be found at [isd2021.nss.org](https://isd2021.nss.org) (<https://isd2021.nss.org/>).

Recognizing the importance of capacity building in space law, the NSS has also commenced two new programs aimed at law students and young legal professionals. The NSS Legal Fellows program provides highly motivated law students with an international platform to make their voices and ideas heard in respect to the continuing evolution space law. Applications are now open to join the 2021 cohort of NSS Legal Fellows, and we encourage law students from anywhere in the world to apply. Information can be found on our website: [space.nss.org](https://space.nss.org). (<https://space.nss.org/nss-legal-fellows-program-accepting-applications/>).

The NSS President's Legal Council provides advice and counsel to the NSS regarding space law and policy issues and assists in the preparation of important policy papers. Both of these programs aim to provide the next generation of lawyers, wherever they may be from, with the experience, knowledge and background they need to fully support the unfettered growth of the space industry as space law, and commercial space law in particular, evolve and mature. I am a law student from the United States state of Mississippi and am proud to be one of the newest members of the NSS President's Legal Council. I encourage all law students to apply.

NSS also sponsors a number of programs for younger students, including, among many others, the Space Settlement Contest. This annual contest is for all students up to 12th grade from anywhere in the world. While this year's finalists have been selected, we encourage submissions for 2022 (<https://space.nss.org/settlement/nasa/Contest/>).

The NSS is also deeply committed to the concept that space is for everyone. We have chapters in Australia, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Japan and South Africa and we welcome more. NSS is also proud to be constituting a unique chapter supporting indigenous communities in the United States and Canada and giving them not just a voice in space, but promoting their right and opportunity to engage in space activities.

Another goal of the NSS is to raise awareness of space and the benefits space offers humanity. We are delighted to share that our video, entitled "Dear Earth," which explains the benefits of clear and unlimited space-based solar power received a Telly Award for excellence in video. The video is also shared on our YouTube channel and we urge you to take a moment to view and share it.

Chair, distinguished delegates, this provides just a glimpse of the work we are doing at NSS. Other projects include everything from the supporting planetary defense initiatives to promoting a commercial low-earth orbit economy. And this afternoon, Alfred Anzaldúa, a member of our Board of Directors and our Policy Committee will be sharing a Technical Presentation offering new perspectives on how to deal with orbital debris.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the NSS to congratulate the Legal Subcommittee on its 60-year history and wish it continued success. We would also like to express our warmest thanks to the Subcommittee's Secretariat and the entire staff of the Office of Outer Space Affairs for all their hard work through the years – and especially this year. The National Space Society looks forward to working with the Legal Subcommittee, the Office of

Outer Space Activities, member States, and the UN community – as we all continue to bring the benefits of space to the people of Earth and the people of Earth into outer space.

Distinguished delegates, 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](http://www.nss.org). Chair and distinguished delegates, it was an honor to present to you. I thank you for your kind attention.