

**International Organization of Space Communications**

Agenda item 5 *‘Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law’*

61<sup>st</sup> session of the LSC of the UN COPUOS  
(Vienna, 28 March – 8 April 2022)

*Madam Chair,*

I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to take 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 our appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Professor Setsuko Aoki, for her skillful guidance of the work of the Legal Subcommittee over the past term.

We also thank the Secretariat for an excellent organization of this session despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and for this opportunity to continue an international dialogue on the peaceful uses of outer space.

*Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

The International Organization of Space Communications is an intergovernmental organization established in 1971. Today, it brings together twenty six Member States. Its aim is to contribute to the development of economic, scientific, technical, and cultural relations among the members by communications and broadcasting via satellites. For this purpose, Intersputnik operates an international satellite telecommunications system.

As a responsible operator, our Organization has accepted the rights and obligations under the Rescue and Return Agreement, Liability Convention, and the Registration Convention. Intersputnik has also committed itself to comply with the Outer Space Treaty and declared its responsibility under Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty.

When carrying on its space activities, our Organization also takes into consideration the ‘soft law’ norms, including the Guidelines for the Long-term

Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Earlier this year, Intersputnik took part in the second phase of the ‘Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the LTS Guidelines,’ a project led by UNOOSA. Intersputnik shared its views and experience in the implementation of the LTS Guidelines as well as the challenges it had faced.

Since space debris endangers the delivery of satellite services and other space applications, in November 2021, Intersputnik joined the Space Industry Debris Statement, an international initiative developed within the framework of the World Economic Forum. In particular, Intersputnik committed to reduce the generation of new space debris and ensure that Earth’s orbits are used in a sustainable and safe manner for the current and future generations.

In this regard, our Organization promotes the manufacturing, launching, and the operation of satellites on a cooperative model. Such model provides for joint satellite projects, where a single medium or large satellite serves the needs of several end users. This is an alternative to launching several smaller satellites, which helps reduce the number of satellites in orbit and contribute to the sustainability of space activities. We have already started negotiations with our Member States and Signatories, as well as with satellite manufacturers and launch service providers, and invite all interested parties to join our efforts to implement cooperative satellite projects.

Intersputnik has always paid special attention to capacity building in the field of space law. Young professionals from different countries have been trained in the International and Legal Service of our Organization and received basic skills and practical experience in this field. Intersputnik also holds its annual NATSATTEL conference, which serves as a platform aimed at sharing expertise and discussing issues related to the development of national satellite systems in Member States and new space-related technologies.

For more details on the activities of our Organization related to space law, please refer to the relevant Conference Room Paper (A/AC.105/C.2/118, 25 January 2022).

*Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,*

I would like to thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful work during the current session.