



**United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy:
The Outer Space Treaty for the 21st Century
28-30 November 2023**

Biographical Reference Document

	<p>Michael Newman works as a Legal Officer with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section. He holds a Juris Doctor (JD) degree in Law in the United States and a Master of Laws (LL.M) in International Air and Space Law from Leiden University in the Netherlands. He also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and Mr. Newman is licensed to practice law in the United States Jurisdictions of New York and California.</p>
	<p>Prof. Olavo Bittencourt is Professor for International Law at the Catholic University of Santos and arbitrator for space related disputes at the Permanent Court of Arbitration. He is Member of the Board of the International Institute of Space Law and serves as Co-vice chair of the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group, Delegate at the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Air and Space Law, Member of the Brazilian Association of Air and Space Law and the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautical and Space Law and Commercial Aviation and is recipient of the IISL Diederiks-Verschoor Award.</p>
	<p>Ambassador Andrzej Misztal (in diplomatic service of Poland from 1992 to 2022). During his career he served as Director of the Legal and Treaty Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland Legal Adviser to the United Nations and representative of Poland to the 6th Committee of the UNGA. He was also deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the UN Office in Geneva. He also represented Poland in the International Commission for the International Tracing Service, Senior Arctic Official – representative of Poland to the Arctic Council, Poland being observer. He chaired Polish delegations to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. Participated as representative of Poland and head of delegation in many bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including under the auspices of the United Nations, the Council of the European Union (he chaired the working group on sanctions), as well as in the Council of Europe. From 2018 to 2020 he was Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). At present he is Chair of the Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (elected in June 2021). He is an independent expert. His areas of interest and professional efforts include disarmament, humanitarian and outer space law.</p>
	<p>Steven Freeland (PhD, LL.M, LLB, BCom) is Emeritus Professor for International Law at Western Sydney University, where he was previously the Dean of the School of Law, and Professorial Fellow at Bond University. He also holds Visiting or Adjunct positions at various other Universities/Institutes in Copenhagen, Vienna, Toulouse, Hong Kong, Montreal, Kuala Lumpur, Vancouver, Mumbai and London. Prior to becoming an academic, he had a 20-year career as an international commercial lawyer and an investment banker. He is a government-appointed Member of the Australian Space Agency Advisory Board</p>

and has been an advisor to the Australian, New Zealand, Norwegian and several other Governments on issues relating to national space legislative frameworks and policy. He represents the Australian Government at Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) meetings and, in June 2021, was appointed by UNCOPUOS as Vice-Chair of a 5-year 'Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities'. He has also been a Visiting Professional within the Appeals Chamber at the International Criminal Court, and a Special Advisor to the Danish Foreign Ministry in matters related to the International Criminal Court. He is a co-Principal of specialised space law firm Azimuth Advisory, a Member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Future Council on the Future of Space, a previous Director of the International Institute of Space Law (2010-2022), a Member of the Advisory Board of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), a Member of the Space Law Committee of the International Law Association and a previous Member of the Space Law and War Crimes Committees of the International Bar Association. In 2022, he was presented with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the International Institute of Space Law, the highest accolade awarded by that institution. In addition to co-Editing the Annotated Leading Cases of International Criminal Tribunals book series, he also sits on the Editorial Board / Advisory Board of several internationally recognised academic journals.



Gabriel Swiney is the Director of the Policy, Advocacy, and International Division at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Space Commerce. He leads a team representing the United States internationally, designs and implements national space policies, and works to build a U.S. system that promotes the growth of the space sector. Previously, Gabriel Swiney was a Senior Policy Advisor at NASA, where he worked in the Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy. He advised NASA leadership on a wide range of issues, including implementation of international rules and norms of behavior and global and commercial partnerships. Gabriel Swiney previously served as the lead international space lawyer for the U.S. Department of State, where he also focused on advanced technologies. He advised the United States National Space Council as well as Department of State officials on all issues relating to international space law as well as the nexus between international rules and domestic laws and regulations and served as the U.S. Head of Delegation to the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee. He was one of the primary creators of the Artemis Accords. Gabriel Swiney has been a lecturer at Harvard Law School, where he taught a course on space law and policy. He holds law degrees from Harvard and Oxford law school.



Tare Brisibe is in-house counsel at global satellite operator SES, with responsibility for SES's government policy and regulatory activities in Asia-Pacific. Tare has two decades of aerospace experience in government, intergovernmental organizations and industry. Added to private legal practice with law firms, he previously served as: Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and Deputy Director (Legal), National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria. He holds multiple degrees, including a PhD in International law from Leiden University.



Hellmut Lagos currently serves as Consul of Chile in La Paz, Bolivia. He has been a member of the Foreign Service since 1995 and actively participated in the United Nations Working Groups of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space, Governmental Experts on Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space, Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament, Open-ended Working Group on Lethal Autonomous Weapons, Open-ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours (Chair). He served as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Commission on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He studied Journalism at the University of Chile and joined the Diplomatic Academy in 1995. He also has a degree in International Security and Defence (ANEPE), a master's degree in International Law and International Relations from the Ortega y Gasset Institute (Madrid) and a Master's degree in International Law on Armed Conflict from the Institute of Advanced International Studies and Development (Graduate Institute) in Geneva. He has served in the Embassies of Chile in Jamaica, Italy and Austria. He has also been Alternate Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna and Alternate Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.



Loyaan A. Egal is Chief of Enforcement at the Federal Communications Commission and also leads the FCC's Privacy and Data Protection Task Force. He previously served as Deputy Chief in the Foreign Investment Review Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division where he oversaw DOJ's interagency role as Chair of the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector (informally known as Team Telecom). Mr. Egal was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Southern District of New York and the District of Columbia and clerked for U.S. District Judge Alia Moses. He received his undergraduate degree from St. John's University and his law degree at the Howard University School of Law.



Prof. Yun Zhao is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law, Chinese Society of Private International Law and Chinese Institute of Space Law; Council Member of Chinese Law Society. He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Space Law, Dispute Resolution, and E-commerce Law.



Vasily Gudenov is Head of Multilateral Cooperation Division of the International Cooperation Department, The State Space Corporation (ROSCOSMOS.) He has served as Head of International Legal Division of the International and Contractual Department in Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos), Deputy Head of the Contractual Division at FSUE TsENKI, Deputy Head of the Division at the Federal Agency for Science and Innovations, Leading Expert at the State Export Trading Company “TechnoPromExport” and Senior Expert to the Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in Mexico, Major Specialist on International Trade at the Federal Science and Research Institute of the Foreign Economic Relations and Leading Specialist of the State Committee on Industrial Policy.





Melissa Force is a space lawyer who, prior to joining Spaceport America, worked in the NOAA’s Office of Space Commercialization (now Office of Space Commerce) assisting in the development of the commercial space transportation policy and taught Aviation and Space Law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. She is an elected member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and Co-Chair of its Space Law Moot Court Committee. Melissa has served as moderator and panelist for the Air Law Institute’s Air and Space Law Symposium and the American Bar Association’s Forum on Air & Space Law and has authored, published and presented papers on a wide array of issues, including space traffic management, space debris, extraterrestrial resource extraction, suborbital spaceflight and rules for the arbitration of space disputes. Prior to obtaining her LLM from Leiden University, she was the Vice President and Associate General Counsel heading international and domestic claims for HOK, Inc. and a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP. She grew up in Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia with a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering and a JD in Law, serving as an editor of the Missouri Law Review.



Dr. Gerardine Goh Escolar is Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. Concurrently, she is Deputy Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), an international intergovernmental organization, where she also heads two Divisions: the International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law Division, and the Transnational Litigation Division. Her work focuses on the international legal, economic and policy issues relating to emerging technology (blockchain and crypto, web3, fintech, communications, aerospace and outer space), inter-State and transnational dispute settlement, environmental protection and sustainability, and venture building.



Prof. Sergio Marchisio is Professor for Space Law, Sapienza University of Rome and serves as Vice-President of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI). He is Chairman of European Centre for Space Law (ECSL/ESA). General Counsel of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and served as Senior Legal Advisor of Italian Space Agency (ASI) and former Member of its Board of Directors (2014-2018). He served as Italian Delegate to UNCOPUOS since 1997 and as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee (2004-2006) and Co-chair of the Expert Group D (Regulatory Regimes and Guidance for Actors in the Space Arena) of the Working Group on

	<p>Long-Term Sustainability of the Outer Space Activities (2010-2018). Since 2007, he is Italian Delegate to the Council of the EU for the Negotiation of the International Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities (ICoC), Chair of the multilateral negotiations held at the United Nations (New York, 2015), since 2010, UNIDROIT correspondent for Italy, Chair of the Committee of Governmental Experts for the preparation of a Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on Matters specific to Space Assets (2003-2012) and of the Committee of the Whole of the 2012 Berlin Diplomatic Conference, which adopted the Protocol. He was Member of the UN Groups of Governmental Experts on Outer Space Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs, 2011-2013), and on Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS, 2018-2019), Member of the Specialized Panel of Permanent Court of Arbitration pursuant to Optional Rules on Disputes relating to Outer Space Activities. In 2011, he received the Social Sciences Award from the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and, in 2015, the Distinguished Service Award from the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). He is author of over 250 scientific publications, including the volume “The Law of Outer Space Activities” (2022).</p>
	<p>Rosanna Hoffmann is currently serving as Programme Officer for the “Space Law for New Space Actors” project within the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs within. Prior to joining UNOOSA, she was the Executive Officer of the European Centre for Space Law and worked as a Junior Legal Officer in the Public International Law Division of the European Space Agency, focusing on space law and policy. Before joining ESA, Rosanna worked at the Section for International Law and International Relations within the Department of European, International and Comparative Law at the University of Vienna as an assistant lecturer and project assistant. She has several years of work experience in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, with prime focus of labour law within the penal system. Within the Ministry, she also served as Deputy Head of the Division for Interpreters and Experts.</p>
	<p>Niklas Hedman is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) Panel on Planetary Protection. From March 2022 until September 2023, he was designated Acting Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He was Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section of UNOOSA for 18 years, where he served as Secretary to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee. Before joining the United Nations in 2006 he served in the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, representing Sweden to COPUOS for 10 years, and working in the areas of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, space affairs and space law, as well as disarmament and arms control. He received the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) Distinguished Service Award in 2017.</p>



Ms. Setsuko Aoki is Professor of Law, Keio University Law School, Japan since April 2016. She specializes in public international law especially space law, arms control and export control. She obtained Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) from McGill University, Montreal, Canada in 1993. She is the chair of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (2020-2021). She is a member of the Committee on the National Space Policy (CNSP), Cabinet Office of Japan since July 2012. Her recent publication in English includes: "Identifying the Scope of the Applicable International Law Rules towards Malicious Cyber Activities against Space Assets", in Proceedings of the International Institute of Space Law 2018 (2019), pp. 687-699; "Domestic Legal Conditions for Space Activities in Asia" 113 AJIL (2019), pp. 103-108.



Jean François Mayence holds a master's degree in law and a specialized post-master degree in Maritime and Air Law from University of Brussels (ULB). He has been working with the Belgian Federal Office for Science Policy (BELSPO) since 1 January 1999, first as legal advisor for the Space R&D Department, then as senior legal advisor for International Relations. His tasks include legal support to various domains of scientific activities, from outer space to Antarctica, from molecular biology to museum collections. He has been member of the Belgian Delegations in several international organizations and bodies, including ESA and UNCOPUOS since 1999. Jean François is the author of the Belgian space law (2005) and of its implementing regulation. He's the co-author of the Belgian Antarctic law (2017). He's contributed to several international publications on Space Law. Jean François was in charge of the practitioner's seminary in Space Law of University of Leuven (KU Leuven) from 2008 to 2013. He's currently scientific advisor of University of Liège (ULiège).



Franziska Knur
Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space;
Since 2018 at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) eV, supporting various UN matters with a focus on space law and space travel for sustainable development;
Doctorate at the TU Dresden in international law, research assistant at the chair for public law, European and international law;
from 2011 to 2017 member of the DGVN state board in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia;
Studied international relations and European studies



Xu Yu, a career diplomat and international lawyer, joined the Chinese Foreign Ministry at 1997, spent most years in the legal field, and held various positions, such as Deputy Director in charge of private international law and criminal justice and Director on public international law and UN legal affairs. In 2013, Xu was nominated by the UN Secretary General as Expert of Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committees and stayed at New York in the next five years and travelled intensively across the world to monitor the sanctions implementation. After finished this stint, Xu rejoined the Chinese Foreign Ministry in 2019, and now worked in the field of peaceful use of outer space.