

*Symposium on Space International Cooperation
in Promoting Economic and Social Development of Developing Countries
Beijing, 25-26 November 2016*

*Message of Congratulations by the
International Institute of Space Law (IISL)
Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President*

*Distinguished organisers of the Symposium,
Dear participants to the Symposium,*

The International Institute of Space Law (IISL) feels honoured to address the Symposium with a message of congratulations. CCASTIC (China Center for Aerospace Science & Technology International Communications) and IAA, with strong support from CNSA and CASC have set out an impressive and interesting programme, which will provide an outstanding insight into how international cooperation in space can further economic and social development of developing countries. The event will also provide an exceptional opportunity to showcase the achievements of China in space during the past 60 years. This anniversary is a reminder that today's top-level activities are built on a long-standing and proud tradition. The symposium will discuss all relevant aspects of international cooperation in space and the IISL is extremely pleased that the policy and legal aspects have their own section in the programme. In this congratulations message, I would like to highlight the positive role space law has played and will continue to play in promoting economic and social development for all countries and in particular developing countries.

Space law protects space activities; space law enables safe and secure space activities; and space law makes equitable and fair progress possible. Space law rests on the principles enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. These are: freedom of use, peaceful uses, sharing of benefits, non-appropriation, State responsibility and liability, and international cooperation, to mention the most prominent ones. Of particular relevance for today's space activities are: the safeguarding of frequencies for space services as science, all applications and operations; they are severely threatened and have to be preserved through appropriate regulation; the regulation of space debris mitigation and ultimately removal of space debris; the emergence of a space traffic management regime, guaranteeing safe space operations; the fair management of outer space resources.

All these issues have a particular relevance for developing countries. They are also very much linked to international cooperation. So, this symposium will inevitably deal also with the implementation of key space law provisions and the further development of space law in view of these questions. Let me point out one particular challenge for space law: how can it be guaranteed that private space activities are authorised and continuously supervised in a way that respects State responsibility and liability. Meeting this challenge is of utmost importance, since nobody wants flags of convenience in space. Nor should anyone promote a legal regime for outer space, where the first-comers grab all there is to take, and the late-comers are left with nothing. Space law has shown the world community that fairness and efficiency can be met at the same time. For all this we need binding international rules. However, we have now observed a rather long phase of "soft law" making, in particular through UN General Assembly Resolutions. But we have to return to binding law. This is the task of governments to acknowledge and to implement.

The section on space policy and space law at the symposium is hosted by Dr. Zhenjun Zhang, who is the Secretary General of the China Institute of Space Law (CISL) and also a member of the Board of Directors of IISL. We are glad that he is promoting space law so efficiently in China and through IISL in the

international context. Another distinguished IISL member, Prof. Fabio Tronchetti, is a speaker at the session, who will provide relevant insight into the relevance of space law. This shall indicate that the space law element of the symposium will certainly demonstrate the importance of this field for the theme of the symposium. On behalf of IISL, I wish the participants an interesting and inspiring day and a sustainable understanding of the crucial role of space law for international cooperation and for economic and social development of humankind.