“The Moon Agreement Revisited: The Road Ahead”

Monday, 1 April 2019
15.00 – 18.00

On the occasion of the 58th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

INTRODUCTION

As humankind celebrates the jubilee of its first steps on the Moon, envisaging a new era for space exploration, the 40th anniversary of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies invites its proper appraisal.

Elaborated by the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee and subsequently approved by the UN General Assembly in 1979, the Moon Agreement, as it became known, reaffirms fundamental principles of the Outer Space Treaty in relation to celestial bodies, while introducing thought-provoking concepts and opening the way for the development of an international legal regime applicable to space resource activities.

Designed to prevent the Moon from becoming an area of international conflict, the agreement promotes the further development of cooperation among States in the exploration and use of Moon and other celestial bodies, in a basis of equality. Although in effect since 1984, the document still accounts significantly less ratifications than other important Space Law treaties, and its widespread acceptance remains elusive.

As the attention of the international community increasingly revolves around the exploration and use of celestial bodies, based on strategic, scientific and economic considerations, allusion to relevant international Space Law sources is of fundamental consequence. Accordingly, the international framework introduced by the Moon Agreement deserves to be revisited, in order to evaluate its provisions as well as contemplate potential outlooks.

To address the current perspectives regarding the Moon Agreement, the IISL/ECSL Symposium promotes a collaborative effort to contemplate the road ahead for the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies, in light of applicable legal principles.
PROGRAMME

Welcome by Chair LSC and Presidents IISL and ECSL
Andrzej Misztal, Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Sergio Marchisio

Space activities and celestial bodies: current scientific and legal perspectives
Guoyu Wang, Air, Space Law and Policy Academy, Beijing Institute of Technology, China

Study of the drafting history of the Moon Agreement
Irmgard Marboe, University of Vienna, Austria

Contribution of the deep seabed mining legal regime to space resource activities
Armel Kerrest, University of Brest, France

Comparative assessment of the Antarctica treaty system: non-militarization and environmental protection
Olavo Bittencourt, Catholic University of Santos, Brazil

Challenges for the implementation of the Moon Agreement
Michelle Hanlon, University of Mississippi, USA

The legacy of the Moon Agreement, revisited
Steven Freeland, Western Sydney University, Australia

Concluding Remarks
Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President IISL
Sergio Marchisio, President ECSL
Andrzej Misztal, Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS