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***Statement by the Board of Directors*
of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL)
on the Consideration of the Interests of the Public and other Stakeholders in the
Authorization and Continuing Supervision of Commercial Space Activities***

Outer space holds unprecedented opportunities for all countries to conduct activities for societal benefit and commercial gain across the globe. The commercial sector is at the forefront of developing many new capabilities, products and services that will lead to new kinds of commercial space activities, including activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies. These space activities should be developed in accordance with the rule of law, for peaceful purposes, and in a manner that is sustainable for the present and future generations. Among the activities proposed to be conducted are the placement of various types of artefacts, human and animal remains on the Moon, advertising and entertainment displays in Earth orbit, and the launch of large constellations of satellites. The Board of Directors of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) is of the opinion that there is growing importance for national regulators responsible for the authorization and continuing supervision of outer space activities to give careful consideration to the interests of all stakeholders, including the scientific community and the public, regarding the consequences of authorizing such activities for the future exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. Consideration should also be given as to whether there are adequate mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the Outer Space Treaty (OST) and other applicable regulations and international guidelines for space debris mitigation, space sustainability, and planetary protection to ensure that the activities are conducted with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Outer Space Treaty.

19 July 2021

** The views expressed in this Statement represent a consensus of the Members of the IISL Board of Directors acting in their personal capacity, and do not necessarily reflect the views of any entities with which they may be affiliated.*