

# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW

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## **IISL CODE OF ETHICS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Adopted at the IISL General Assembly on 12 November 2022  
Version 1.0

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# IISL CODE OF ETHICS

Version 1.0, 12 November 2022

## Message from the President

The International Institute of Space Law has long held the values of inclusivity and respect for others. This Code of Ethics and the new Standing Committee on Ethics are critical to ensure that these values are maintained throughout our activities. This is an important step forward in ensuring that we pursue our mission of promoting the rule of law in space in a way that benefits all humankind and in exercising that in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

## What is the Purpose of this Code?

The Code of Ethics sets out the values which IISL embodies and the expected minimum standards of behaviour and seeks to ensure that these values and behaviour guide our Members in their work and interaction with IISL. This Code of Ethics is designed to support Article 2(b) of the IISL Statute, which references the development of professional standards and professional ethics in the field of space law.

## What are IISL's Values?

- A safe environment for all
- Diversity & inclusion (Gender, Geography, Generation)
- Non-discrimination
- Professionalism, responsibility, & commitment
- Integrity, honesty, & transparency
- Academic freedom
- Respect & civility
- Proactivity, positivity & mentorship
- Compassion

## To Whom does this Code Apply?

This Code applies to all Members (individual, prospective, and institutional), and Non-Members who are participants, organisers, hosts and/or partners at events, volunteers, and service providers and contractors.

## When & Where is this Code Applied?

This Code applies

- In the context of all IISL activities and/or representations including but not limited to meetings, events, Moot Court competitions, external communications and publications.
- To personal behaviour, when such behaviour negatively impacts IISL's reputation and/or values.

## How Do I Report an Incident?

Incidents may be reported to the Ethics Committee, at [ethics@iisl.space](mailto:ethics@iisl.space). More information is available at <https://www.iislweb.space/iisl-ethics-committee/>.

## What Do IISL's Values Mean?

This section provides some additional guidance and information regarding the IISL's values. The following is intended to serve as a reference point and indicates minimum standards of behaviour:

### **1. A safe environment for all**

IISL firmly believes in creating an environment in which everyone involved feels comfortable, safe, and supported. Respect everyone you interact with. Be kind, polite and understanding to everyone.

## **2. Diversity & inclusion**

### *Gender, Geography, Generation*

IISL firmly stands for equal opportunity for all. Therefore, IISL commits to value and embrace diversity in all aspects of IISL activities and respect others without regard to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status such as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation.

It is important to be cognisant of cultural differences. In order to embrace diversity, IISL strives to ensure representation for all sections of society at all its events, activities, and initiatives.

## **3. Non-discrimination**

At IISL, we refuse to engage in or tolerate any other form of discrimination or harassment of any form, including, but not limited to, bullying, sexual, abusive, discriminatory, and/or inappropriate behaviour in a virtual space or on social media.

## **4. Professionalism, responsibility, & commitment**

### *Integrity, honesty, & transparency*

First, always keep in mind our organisation's mission. We all work together to achieve specific outcomes. Your behaviour should contribute to our goals, whether academic or organisational, and should always be in the best interest of IISL.

Be honest and transparent when you act in ways that impact other people. IISL does not tolerate malicious, deceitful or petty conduct. Lies and cheating are not in the spirit of IISL. This includes a prohibition on bribery, abuse of power, position, and/or influence, and acting in any form or manner which is not in the best interest of IISL.

### *Academic freedom*

IISL is committed to creating an environment that favours individual academic autonomy and freedom. Exercising academic freedom means that every IISL Member is required to conduct themselves with honesty and responsibility by adopting self-regulation that results in upholding integrity to the scientific community, the ethical impact of research, and society as a whole. IISL promotes academic freedom, which includes the freedom of scholars to inquire into any subject that evokes intellectual concern, to present findings, to publish data and conclusions without control or censorship, and to publish in the manner they consider professionally appropriate.

At the same time, all IISL Members are to be mindful of plagiarism in their work. IISL Members are also reminded of the importance of timeliness in completing their commitments with IISL. IISL Members are also expected to give due acknowledgments and attributions to all those involved with a particular work, and to commit to publication with IISL after a presentation in an IISL Colloquium.

## **5. Respect & civility**

Respect others' opinions and privacy. Any kind of verbal or physical abuse is strictly prohibited. Do not harass or victimise others.

Practice open and collaborative communication, with an emphasis on mutual respect and understanding. Respect different views and opinions.

## **6. Proactivity, positivity & mentorship**

All IISL Members should embrace a positive attitude towards their work and have a proactive approach in the course of their activities with IISL. This includes helping others, especially if someone is feeling unsafe or uncomfortable, fostering growth in the IISL community and amongst its Members, being a role model and a mentor for the next generation, and actively participating in all the activities organised by IISL.

## **7. Compassion**

All IISL Members should carry forward traits, values, and behaviours that display empathy and kindness towards others. IISL Members are encouraged to speak up when they see a violation of this Code of Ethics taking place at any IISL-related activity, and are encouraged to go above and beyond the minimum standards set out in this document.

### **Please Note:**

IISL has established an Ethics Committee composed of three to five members to address all violations of this Code of Ethics. The Committee can be contacted at [ethics@iisl.space](mailto:ethics@iisl.space). This should be the only mechanism used to report all such incidents.

Your report will be treated with confidentiality, respect and civility. You may report anonymously or for a friend. You may not knowingly make a false or misleading claim. Any conflict of interest between you and the person(s) handling your report will be taken into account.

Based on the evaluation of the incident(s), the Ethics Committee may recommend the following actions/consequences:

- Issue a warning
- Ask for an apology
- Make a public statement
- Delete/remove offensive publication
- Recommend mediation
- Temporary suspension
- Invite to resign or remove from a position
- Revoke membership
- Report to appropriate authorities

From time to time, this Code of Ethics shall be updated by the IISL Board upon recommendations from the Ethics Committee and adopted by the General Assembly.

# **IISL Ethics Committee**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)**

Version 1.0, 12 November 2022

### **IISL Code of Ethics:**

The IISL Code of Ethics has been developed to promote the values which IISL embodies and the expected minimum standards of behaviour, and seeks to ensure that these values and behaviour guide our Members in their work and interaction with IISL. This Code of Ethics is designed to support Article 2(b) of the IISL Statute, which references the development of professional standards and professional ethics in the field of space law.

The Code of Ethics is implemented through the establishment of an Ethics Committee as a Permanent Committee of the General Assembly.

### **Establishment of the Ethics Committee:**

The General Assembly may under its Statute authority (Article IV (5)) “create permanent or ad hoc committees, appoint Chairs of such committees, and invest in such committees such powers and responsibilities as the General Assembly may deem advisable ...”.

Under Statute authority (Article VI (4)) the Board “may by resolution create standing (permanent) or ad hoc committees, appoint Chairs of such committees, and mandate such committees with such powers and responsibilities as the Board may deem advisable.”



## Membership of the Ethics Committee:

The Ethics Committee shall consist of three to five members in good standing. They will serve three-year terms that are renewable, and members will step down in a staggered way according to a rotation schedule that will be drawn up at the start of work. Membership shall reflect gender, generation, geographical, and professional diversity. Under Statute Article VI (4), the appointed Chair of the Ethics Committee may appoint other members, “at least one of which shall be a Board Member...”. To avoid potential conflict of interest and to maintain the highest level of independence, for the present Committee the Board may decide to appoint an Honorary Director or President Emeritus instead of a sitting Board Member.

## Tasks of the Ethics Committee:

1. The prime task of the Ethics Committee is to implement the Code of Ethics and to serve as the point of contact for individuals to report incidents that may violate the Code of Ethics.
2. The Ethics Committee is charged by the Board to examine the circumstances surrounding alleged violations of the Code of Ethics, submitting to the Board the Committee’s recommended actions/consequences. The Committee may recommend the following consequences:
  - Issue a warning
  - Ask for an apology
  - Make a public statement
  - Delete/remove offensive publication
  - Recommend mediation
  - Suspension
  - Invite to resign or remove from a position
  - Removal
  - Report to appropriate authorities
3. All Members of the Ethics Committee shall ensure that participating in the activities of the Committee does not give rise to any conflicts of interest, particularly when an incident is presented for examination. In the case of a conflict of interest, the particular member of the Committee shall recuse themselves of the specific examination.

4. The Ethics Committee shall submit to the Board an annual report detailing the number and type of reported violations of the Code of Ethics. The Committee will request the Board from time to time to approve or reject its recommended actions whenever it conducts an examination of a case. This annual report will be treated with confidentiality, respect, and civility.
5. The Ethics Committee shall submit to the General Assembly an annual report on the general aspects of the work of the Committee but shall not enter into specifics on any incidents and their outcomes.
  
6. The Ethics Committee may recommend changes to the Code of Ethics to be considered by the Board.

### Methods of Work:

1. The Ethics Committee shall meet at least once a year at the Colloquium of the IISL or hybrid-online as the Chair of the Ethics Committee may direct.
  
2. All decisions of the Ethics Committee require a simple majority. Meetings of the Ethics Committee shall only take place when quorum is met, which means at least 50% of the Members of the Committee are present.
  
3. The Ethics Committee's work will be conducted under appropriate rules established by the Statute and By-Laws, and/or including instructions or tasks as stipulated by Board decisions and supervision of the standing committee.
  
4. A more detailed and comprehensive version of these Terms of Reference may be developed and presented for Board review and approval at a future time.

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