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IISL Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

IISL's mission is to promote the rule of law in outer space. In the recent past, we have seen a deterioration of respect for existing, binding international space law. The current invasion of Ukraine represents an unprecedented new dimension of violation of international law. Taken into account with other such violations of international law in other world regions, the IISL is deeply concerned about this situation and its meaning for the rule of law.

We are shocked by the suffering that Russia is inflicting on Ukrainian citizens, their homes, other living beings, and the environment. We feel compassion for our Ukrainian IISL Members and deplore that what they have been building up in space law capacity and resources might be destroyed.

The IISL is committed to peaceful relations in outer space and on the Earth. While we seek to enable a global discourse on space law, we will be suspending activities connected with Russia. This includes the suspension of participation of Russian teams in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. We do this with great regret, because it affects civil society, which we always strive to connect, and it means that students must pay the price for geopolitical struggles far beyond their control. At the same time, we must remain in solidarity with the sanctions regime that has been adopted as it is meaningful to our commitment to the rule of law.

The IISL continues to work for the maintenance of the rule of law in outer space – and on Earth, wherever it is challenged and violated.

Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President

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