

Wuhan Statement on Commercial Space Activities

Issued following the International Symposium on Legal Aspects of Commercial Space

(Wuhan, 19-20 October 2026)

The Participants, acting in their personal capacity,

Recognizing that commercial space plays an increasing role in the exploration and use of outer space and that this presents both opportunities and challenges;

Affirming that the Outer Space Treaty remains the cornerstone of the international legal framework for space activities, including commercial space activities, and that the exploration and use of outer space shall be for the benefit and in the interests of all countries;

Desiring to promote excellence in research with respect to the international legal framework for space activities, including international space law, with a view to promoting the effective regulation of space activities, including commercial space activities;

express their understandings and recommendations as follows:

1. States shall bear international responsibility for assuring their national commercial space activities are carried out in conformity with the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable international law. When carried out by non-governmental entities, commercial space activities shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State. Noting that each State acts according to its own priorities, they should regulate their national commercial space activities according to their international legal obligations and are encouraged to exchange regulatory experiences and good practices to help promote effective regulation of commercial space activities.
2. Space resource activities, including commercial space resource activities, are regulated by the international legal framework for space activities. It is important to uphold the existing international legal framework and promote the further articulation of the principles therein to help ensure the appropriate governance of commercial space resource activities. Intergovernmental dialogues, such as those taking place within the UNCOPUOS Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, are expected to make significant contributions. Dialogues by civil society and experts may also contribute in this regard.
3. Earth orbits are becoming increasingly congested due to a significant increase in the number of objects and the types of activities in outer space, including those resulting from the development of commercial space activities. Commercial space may offer potentially viable technologies to promote the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; however, they shall be carried out in conformity with international law in



force. International coordination, collaboration, and cooperation are crucial for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

4. The increasing use of commercial space in military activities poses challenges to the international legal framework for space activities, including international space law. Efforts to clarify regulation of commercial space in military activities can contribute towards the prevention of an arms race in outer space and help to ensure the secure, safe, and sustainable uses of outer space in the interests of all humankind.
5. As the number and diversity of actors in space has increased, there is continued need to foster international exchange and cooperation among space actors. In particular, such exchange and cooperation are critical to an understanding of the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space, so that actors can understand shared legal values and bridge differences in legal cultures. Wuhan, as one of China's hubs for commercial space and space law research, is committed to joining hands with international academic institutions, such as the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), to provide a window for exchange and cooperation.