

# **Statutes of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL)**

## **Article I**

### Name and registered office

The name of the Association is International Institute of Space Law, hereinafter to be referred to as the Institute. It has its registered office in Leiden, the Netherlands.

## **Article II**

### Objectives

The objectives of the Institute are:

- . (a) To provide advice to the President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) when requested;
- . (b) To cooperate with appropriate international organisations and national institutions in the field of space law;
- . (c) To hold of meetings, colloquia and competitions on legal and social science aspects of space activities, thereby providing forums to individuals from different legal systems and regions of the world to engage in the free expression and exchange of ideas relevant to space law and policy;
- . (d) To prepare and commission studies and reports;
- . (e) To publish books, proceedings, reports and other papers;
- . (f) To grant and present awards and certificates;
- . (g) To carry out such other activities as may be considered desirable in fostering the development of space law and studies of legal and social science aspects of the exploration and use of outer space.

## **Article III**

### Membership

Section 1 Individuals distinguished by their contributions to or of proven interest in the field of space law or other social science aspects related to space activities, may be nominated for membership of the Institute by a Director or three members of the Institute. The Board of Directors decides about the admission as a member. No appeal to the General Meeting lies from the decision of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Corporate bodies actively engaged or otherwise involved in the field of space law or other social science aspects related to space activities, may be nominated for membership of the Institute by a Director or three members of the Institute. The Board of Directors decides about the admission as a member. No appeal to the General Meeting lies from the decision of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 The decision to admit a member is taken by the Board of Directors by a majority vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **Article IV**

## Membership dues

Section 1 All members of the Institute will pay annual membership dues which will be laid down in the Bye-laws. These dues are expressed in terms of units.

Section 2 The Board of Directors will determine the value of the unit in which membership dues are expressed. The Board of Directors may modify the value of the unit and decide when the modification will take effect.

Section 3 Members who are in default with the payment of their membership dues may be suspended and will then lose the right to vote at a General Meeting. The Board of Directors may decide to terminate the membership of the Institute of members, if they are in arrears with the payment of membership dues for more than two years. The membership may only be terminated with effect from the end of a financial year and with observance of a notice period of four weeks.

## **Article V**

### General Meeting

Section 1 Each year at least one General Meeting (annual meeting) will be held, within six months of the end of the financial year, subject to an extension of this period by the General Meeting; in addition special meetings may also be held, at such times and places as the Board of Directors may determine. At this General Meeting the Board of Directors will present its annual report about the course of affairs in the Association and about the policy pursued. It will submit the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure with explanatory notes to the meeting. These documents will be signed by all Directors; if any signature is lacking, the reasons for this omission must be given. After expiry of the period mentioned in the first sentence of this section, every member may claim at law from the joint Directors to fulfill these obligations. The General Meeting will annually appoint a committee of at least two members, who must not be members of the Board of Directors.

The committee will inspect these documents and will report to the General Meeting about its findings. If in the opinion of the committee this investigation requires special accounting knowledge, it may arrange for the assistance of an expert at the expense of the Association. The Board of Directors is obliged to provide the committee with all the information it desires, to show the committee the funds and assets, if it so requires, and to make the books and documents of the Association available for inspection. The General Meeting will be convened by written notice to those entitled to vote with due observance of a period of at least seven days. The notice must include the subjects to be discussed.

Section 2 At each annual meeting the Board of Directors will submit a report on the activities of the Institute. The report will outline the events and accomplishments of the preceding year and will put forward the policy and projects of the Institute for the future.

Section 3 The Directors are appointed and dismissed by the General

Meeting, this subject to the provisions of Article VI (2) and (3). A resolution of appointment will be passed by a majority of the votes cast. If in an election between more than two persons no one has obtained a majority, a revote will be held between the two persons who obtained the largest number of votes, if needed after an interim vote. A resolution of dismissal will be passed by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast.

## **Article VI**

### Governing board

Section 1 The governing body of the Institute is the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors consists of the President (chair), two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and fourteen other Directors.

Furthermore, the President Emeriti as referred to in Article VI (5) are Directors. Honorary Directors of the Institute, as referred to in Article VI (6), will be invited by the Board of Directors to become consultants of the Board and to attend in that capacity the meetings of the Board; they have no voting power.

Section 2 When appointing Directors it will be aimed to reflect and represent at the Board of Directors the various regions of the world and the various legal systems, due regard being paid especially to those countries which have significant space programmes or which have made considerable efforts to develop space law.

Section 3 The Directors will be appointed for a period of three years, and are eligible for reappointment. Five Directors will be appointed in the functions of President, Vice-President (two), Secretary and Treasurer. When appointing Directors all those involved will take account of the desirability to ensure both continuity and adequate rotation within the Board. Each year, about one third of them will be elected.

Section 4 If in the period between two annual meetings a vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors, the Board may appoint a temporary Director to fill the vacancy until the expiry of the relevant term, provided that such appointment is ratified at the next General Meeting.

Section 5 An outgoing President, who has served in that capacity for several years and has contributed substantially to the development and the activities of the Institute, may be elected for life as a President Emeritus by the General Meeting by a majority of votes.

Section 6 On the recommendation of the Board of Directors, persons who have made outstanding contributions to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, or to the development of space law, as well as Directors who have served for several succeeding terms and have contributed substantially to the work of the Institute, may be elected for life as Honorary Directors by the General Meeting by a majority of votes.

## **Article VII**

### Tasks and powers of the Board of Directors

Section 1 The President of the Board of Directors will guide and supervise the activities of the Institute pursuant to its Statutes and in accordance with its Bye-laws. The President will represent the Institute in its external relations.

Section 2 The Board of Directors will manage the Institute, including:

- . (a) carrying out the objectives of the Institute as set forth in Article II of these Statutes;
- . (b) implementing the resolutions and directives adopted at the General Meeting of the Institute;
- . (c) creating standing committees with appropriate terms of reference and powers for their functions;
- . (d) creating ad hoc committees and working groups for specific purposes and functions;
- . (e) appointing temporary Directors to fill vacancies occurring in the membership of the Board of Directors in accordance with Art. VI (4) of these Statutes;
- . (f) supervising the correspondence of the Institute and providing for the safekeeping of the archives;
- . (g) establishing a secretariat as appropriate, designating its duties and supervising all its activities;
- . (h) arranging for meetings and colloquia;
- . (i) arranging for the publication of books, proceedings, reports and other papers;
- . (j) making recommendations concerning the awarding of medals, certificates and prizes;
- . (k) approving budgets and supervising accounts;
- . (l) accepting donations and legacies, and funds from private sources, and contributions from national and international organisations, governments and other institutions;
- . (m) approving the annual reports of the President and the Treasurer to be presented at the annual meetings of the Institute, and the annual report of the President to be presented at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

Section 3 The Board of Directors may only pass resolutions at a meeting if at least ten Directors are present or represented, including in any case the President or acting President. The Board may also pass resolutions without holding a meeting, provided that all Directors are given the opportunity to cast their vote and none of them opposes this manner of decision-making. In that case a resolution will have been passed if the majority of the Directors has declared in writing to be in favour of the proposal.

Section 4 Resolutions of the Board of Directors will be passed, so far as possible, by consensus. Every person entitled to vote may have his vote cast by another person entitled to vote who has been authorised thereto in writing. A person entitled to vote may act as authorised representative of at most two persons. Subject to provisions to the contrary in these Statutes or the Bye-laws, resolutions of the Board that have been put to the vote will be validly passed when a majority of the votes has been cast

in favour of the proposal. If the votes are equally divided, the President will decide.

Section 5 The ordinary affairs of the Board of Directors and of the Institute will be conducted in accordance with the Statutes and Bye-laws.

Section 6 The Members of standing committees, of ad hoc committees and of working groups will be appointed by the President in consultation with the other Directors.

Section 7 Each year by the end of April the President, in consultation with the other Directors, will appoint the Chairman and members of the Nomination Committee responsible for nominating candidates for election as Directors whose terms of office are to begin after the next annual meeting. The Committee will be composed of not less than three, but not more than five members. The report of the Nomination Committee will be submitted to the President no later than one month before the annual meeting.

## **Article VIII**

### Amendment of the Statutes and Bye-laws

Section 1 The Statutes and Bye-laws may only be amended by a resolution of the General Meeting after a proposal to this effect from the Board. The resolution will be passed by a majority of the votes cast. The notice convening the meeting will contain the announcement that an amendment of the Statutes will be proposed at that meeting. The notice period will be at least seven days. The Board resolution concerning the proposal to amend the Statutes of Bye-laws will be passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Those who have sent the notice convening the General Meeting for discussing a proposal to amend the Statutes must make a copy of that proposal, in which the proposal amendment is set out verbatim, available for inspection by the members at a suitable place at least five days before the day of the meeting until after the end of the day on which the meeting was held.

## **Article IX**

### Dissolution

Section 1 The Institute will be dissolved by a resolution of the General Meeting passed by a majority of the votes cast. If the possible dissolution of the Institute is on the agenda, this should be made known as such three months before the General Meeting.

Section 2 Unless the General Meeting decides to use the credit balance differently, such credit balance will be offered to an international institution which has objectives which are comparable with those of the institute.