Propositions relating to the dissertation

*Legal and Institutional Aspects of Latin-American Space Cooperation AQUARELSat: The Water Monitoring Constellation*

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1. The ambiguity of general statements that support regional space cooperation plans can be overcome with a legal formulation aimed at prodding the political will towards defining concrete objectives.

2. At present, Latin America does not need a regional space institution or space policy to implement multilateral space cooperation; it rather needs agreement on a concrete multilateral satellite mission.

3. The development and operation of the AQUARELSat Constellation could act as a catalyst for improving the access to water, while strengthening regional space capabilities and cooperation.

4. The use of remote sensing satellites for water management would support the implementation of the right to water, a practical measure to ensure human development and poverty reduction in the Latin-American region and in other regions of the world.

5. The Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space; and the ‘Declaration on International Cooperation in Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries’, were initiatives of Latin-American countries in the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS. Those documents represented a step forward in space law, but not in the practice of most of the Latin-American countries.

6. Regional agreements on space cooperation could help to promote the progressive development of international space law in its different areas. Thus, Latin-American countries should make better use of this mechanism as an alternative to the submission of proposals to COPUOS.

7. The UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU’s) Master International Frequency Register have to update the list of required information to avoid mismatch between the information in the registers and the real status on-orbit.

8. The UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/64/292) of July 28, 2010 has recognized the access to safe water as a human right, a right already recognized in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC’s) General Comment 15. What is needed now is an international legally binding agreement on the right to access to safe water, and its implementation at the national level.

9. Children in Latin America should be exposed to ‘science fiction’ and scientific documentaries, to awaken their curiosity and interest in space issues.

10. Mexico needs to create a Ministry of Science and Technology with broad participation of scientists and with minimal participation of politicians and bureaucrats.

11. On-Orbit Servicing can introduce passive and active measures to control and mitigate space debris, promoting safe access to outer space.

12. Life is a work of art, canvas that we can improve upon everyday, adding new strokes of the brush to guide our actions, to make us better persons and to build a better world. Like on any canvas, we can perfect or enhance certain details of our life and change or modify those we don’t like.