

Preface

The book *An Introduction to Space Law* has a long history. Its first edition was published in 1993 by the late professor Isabella Diederiks-Verschoor as a follow-up to her famous book *An Introduction to Air Law*. A second edition followed in 1999, and in 2007 the late professor Vladimír Kopal joined her as co-author of the third edition. The present authors, close former collaborators and disciples of these two pioneers of space law, published the fourth edition in 2019 as a fully revised version and now updated that to become this fifth edition of the *Introduction to Space Law*. Presenting both to students and to the general public 'an idea of the rules and the latest developments of space law', the book thus enjoys a long tradition, which we are proud to continue.

While the book still honours the original version's main structure and some of its historical parts, this edition contains major updates to the fourth edition to reflect the developments of the past five years which have legal consequences. Some examples are listed below:

- The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) adopted twenty-one guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities.
- The first orbital and suborbital flights with fully commercial crews took place.
- The UN adopted a resolution banning non-kinetic anti-satellite weapons tests.
- Several States joined the UN space treaties and for the first time, a State withdrew from one.
- The first unauthorized launch of small satellites took place.
- The first fine for non-compliance with debris mitigation measures was issued.
- The signatories to non-legally binding mechanisms for lunar exploration nearly triple the States Parties to the 1979 Moon Agreement.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) adopted a 'milestone' approach for the 'bringing into use (BIU) of large constellations.