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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Legal Subcommittee  
Sixty-third session  
Vienna, 15–26 April 2024  
**Item 6 of the provisional agenda\***  
**Status and application of the five United Nations  
treaties on outer space, and ways and means,  
including capacity-building, to promote their  
implementation**

**United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Stakeholder  
Study Report on Registration of Objects Launched into  
Outer Space**

**Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland**

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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\* A/AC.105/C.2/L.326.



## **United Kingdom: Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space – UNOOSA Stakeholder Study report**

1. The United Kingdom would like to highlight an output from the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Registration Project: Supporting Implementation of Treaty Obligations related to the Registration of Objects in 2023 which was funded by the United Kingdom.
2. The main output of this Registration project was a stakeholder study report which set out anonymized views on best practice for registration policy, determining the state of registry and future trends for consideration.
3. This was compiled from interviews with 42 member states of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 4 non-State members of the Committee and 1 intergovernmental organization.
4. In this report, there were important views raised, including but not limited to:

### **I. Capacity building**

- Participants highlighted the need for capacity-building tools to be developed for Member States to enhance registration practices.
- Assistance on how to set up their registries and processes; maintain the registries, and submit the information to the United Nations, was deemed necessary.
- Some participants noted that the Office could carry out more capacity-building in partnership with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), given the linkages between the ITU filing and registration processes.

### **II. Registration processes**

- Many States would like the registration submission form to be an online tool that could be filled out by the space object operator, then checked or rejected by the competent authority of the State of Registry and eventually received by the Office.
- Some participants informed that it could be challenging to be fully informed of planned space activities and follow developments, including post registration of the object. They noted that a mechanism was necessary to facilitate regular updating of their national registries, to ensure receipt of the latest information on the status of space object carried in their registries.

### **III. Coordination across National Focal Points**

- The need for regular coordination and knowing who to contact was raised.
- One such mechanism was the establishment of a regular meeting, of national focal points responsible for authorization/licensing and registration of space activities, that usually met on a yearly basis, to discuss space law and enforcement-related matters.
- The group could be informal, with a loose agenda, as per the Expert Event on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space which took place in Vienna from 29–30 May 2023.

### **IV. Novel missions**

- New and novel space missions, in the coming years, will only raise the relevance of registration as a means of understanding “who owns what” in space.
- Issues which may require the attention of the Member States include: in-orbit transfer of ownership, active debris removal, spaceports, lunar and planetary surface operations, such as space research stations or resource mining operations

on the Moon or Mars, the launch of large- or mega-constellations, satellite serial-licensing and mass production, in-orbit servicing, the growing number of launch providers, international space stations, and space-based deployments.

5. This stakeholder study, along with the ongoing process to digitize the Registers of Objects Launched into Outer Space in 2024, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Registration Convention entering into force in 2026, provide such opportunities for the Office and the international community to build momentum around enhanced registration.
  6. Member States and observer organizations can find the [full report for their consideration](#).
  7. The United Kingdom will be co-hosting a [side event with UNOOSA](#) on the findings of the stakeholder study report at the Legal Subcommittee on 18 April 2024 from 2:15–2:45 p.m. at room M3 at the Vienna International Centre.
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