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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
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Draft report

Addendum

IV. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 6, entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation”, as a regular item on its agenda.

2. The representatives of Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 6. A statement was made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was also made under the item by the observer for SWF. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

3. At its 1054th meeting, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with Franziska Knur (Germany) as its Chair.

4. At its [...]th meeting, on [...] April, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group, contained in annex I to the present report.

5. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy: the Outer Space Treaty for the twenty-first century, which was held online from 28 to 30 November 2023 ([A/AC.105/1322](#));

(b) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2024 ([A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.3](#));



(c) Conference room paper containing the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.7);

(d) Conference room paper containing responses to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space received from Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Ghana, Morocco and Slovakia (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.8);

(e) Conference room paper containing a schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.10);

(f) Conference room paper entitled “Growth of the Committee membership and universalization of the five United Nations treaties on space law”, submitted by SWF (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.19);

(g) Conference room paper containing responses to the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities received from Angola, Morocco and the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.20);

(h) Conference room paper entitled “Sharing approaches of the United Kingdom to article XI implementation and notifications”, submitted by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.21);

(i) Conference room paper entitled “United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Stakeholder Study Report on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space”, submitted by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.22).

6. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “New challenges in the registration of space objects”, by the representative of Spain;

(b) “United States Federal Communications Commission satellite licensing and enforcement”, by the representative of the United States;

(c) “In-space liability as a cross-cutting issue”, by the representative of the United States;

(d) “United States Novel Space Activities Authorization and Supervision Framework”, by the representative of the United States.

7. The Subcommittee welcomed with appreciation the growing number of States parties to the five United Nations treaties on outer space and encouraged those States that had not yet become parties to the treaties to consider doing so.

8. The view was expressed that it was important to recall article IV of the Outer Space Treaty, in which States Parties to the treaties undertook to affirm the principle of the peaceful use of outer space, in particular prohibiting the placement, installation or stationing in orbit around the Earth of any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kind of weapon of mass destruction.

9. The Subcommittee noted that space activities should be conducted in conformity with applicable international space law because space activities were expanding due to the growing number of space actors and benefits derived from space science technology and applications. To that end, States needed to ensure, through their national legal frameworks, that those activities were in compliance with the United Nations treaties on outer space, in order to ensure the sustainability of outer space activities. They could also consider reviewing their national legal frameworks as necessary.

10. The Subcommittee noted that various activities had been taken by member States to review, strengthen, develop or draft national space laws and policies, and to reform or establish the governance of national space activities.

11. The view was expressed that, given the growth of space activity, there was a need for the continuous improvement of international and national regulations of

space activities, which included considering the transformation of non-legally binding instruments, such as recommendations, into obligations.

12. The Subcommittee expressed the view that the registration of space objects contributed to the harmonization and sustainability of outer space activities.

13. The Subcommittee noted that it was important to enhance the practice of registration, in particular with regard to large constellations and megaconstellations, and noted with appreciation the adoption by the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation.

14. The view was expressed that detailed rules for registering space objects needed to be examined, in particular with regard to the transfer of control and of ownership of a space object.

15. The Subcommittee noted that the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty was important in enhancing transparency among member States, and welcomed the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, which focused on the exchange of views on the implementation of that article.

16. The view was expressed that information-sharing by member States, in line with the obligations under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, could address many of the challenges posed by longer-term and complicated operations on the Moon and beyond, including in relation to the coordination of activities.

17. The view was expressed that, as a consequence of progress in the field of space-related activities and the expansion of activities carried out in outer space, it was necessary to have clear regulations on important issues such as space debris; the collision of space objects, in particular those with nuclear power sources on board, with space debris; the equitable and rational use of the geostationary orbit; and the use of outer space resources.

18. The view was expressed that a reliable and constantly updated database of space objects and events in space was essential for clarifying the concept of “damage” within the framework of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (Liability Convention), given the growing number of space activities.

19. The Subcommittee agreed that capacity-building, training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology, in particular in developing countries, and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out. That would encourage States to ratify the five United Nations treaties on outer space and support the implementation of those treaties and the establishment of national institutions, and would make international space law more accessible and better known by all sectors of civil society.

20. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that a number of national, regional and international efforts to build capacity in space law were being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental entities.

21. The Subcommittee noted that the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy: the Outer Space Treaty for the twenty-first century had contributed to capacity-building in space law by providing a platform for sharing views on the interpretation and implementation of the Outer Space Treaty.

22. The Subcommittee noted that some member States had provided financial assistance to enable students to attend the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, which was held annually during the International Astronautical Congress.

23. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation for the Space Law for New Space Actors project of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, which continued to provide support in enhancing capacity for the development of national space law and policy, and requested that the Office continue providing its assistance under the project for the benefit of developing countries.
24. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the Registration Project, which supported the implementation of treaty obligations related to the registration of objects launched into outer space by the Office and which was aimed at improving awareness of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Registration Convention) and promoting its coherent application.
25. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the ongoing work being carried out under the project of the Office for Outer Space Affairs entitled “Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities”.
26. The Subcommittee took note of the efforts made in the framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) National Space Legislation Initiative for the national implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II), as well as for the involvement of private entities in space activities as regulated through the related national legislation.
27. The Subcommittee took note of the efforts led by APSCO, which had created the Space Law Alliance that connected 39 organizations, institutions and universities from member States of APSCO in order to promote joint activities, joint research and collaboration on matters related to space law and policy with the aim of boosting capabilities, knowledge-sharing and research.
28. The Subcommittee noted that the annual space law symposium by IISL and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) had contributed to the work of the Subcommittee and to raising awareness through its inclusive discussions on space activities.
29. The Subcommittee noted that the Office would update its publication on United Nations instruments on space law in 2024 and planned to produce a publication on registration in the biennium 2025–2026.
30. The Subcommittee noted that the Office had updated the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.7), including the information on available fellowships and scholarships, and agreed that the Office should continue to update that directory. In that connection, the Subcommittee invited member States to encourage contributions at the national level for the future updating of the directory.
31. The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue to regularly exchange information on developments in the area of national space-related regulatory frameworks. In that regard, the Subcommittee encouraged member States to continue to submit to the secretariat the texts of their national space laws and regulations and to provide updates and inputs for the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities.
32. The Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international levels to build capacity in space law.