

# **10th United Nations Workshop on Space Law "Contribution of Space Law and Policy to Space Governance and Space Security in the 21st Century"**

5-8 September 2016, Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

*Organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)*

*In cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)*

*Co-sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)  
and the Secure World Foundation (SWF)*

## **INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

Outer space is a fragile environment where the steps taken by one actor might have an impact on others, including users of space services on Earth. In that sense, the broader application of space operations and the increased strategic value of space has resulted in a growing need to enhance the safety of space operations, the security of the space environment and space assets, and the sustainability of outer space activities. Given the growing number of benefits derived from space science and technology applications, the conduct of space activities by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities as well as private sector continues to expand. In developing international and regional space cooperation States should assure that all actors conducting space activities comply with requirements of international space law.

International and regional cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space helps to bring the benefits of space technology applications to a wide circle of stake-holders, both governmental and non-governmental, and to intensify and diversify national space programmes. Policy and regulatory frameworks at the national, regional and international level are of paramount importance to provide the necessary basis for States, particularly developing countries, to meet development goals and addressing challenges to humanity and sustainable development. In this process, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the inter-linkages between international space law and the conduct of space activities.

The 10th Workshop on Space Law forms part of a series of workshops under the space law capacity-building programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-fifth session in 2016, noted with appreciation that the tenth United Nations Workshop on Space Law would be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 5 to 8 September 2016 and that the Workshop would address space law, and cover transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, each year (latest 70/82) reaffirms the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international

treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries. The Assembly also recognizes that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The Assembly, in its resolution 70/82, further requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end. The Assembly encourages the Office for Outer Space Affairs to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Assembly resolutions on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (resolutions 68/50, 69/38, 70/53) encourage relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate, as appropriate, on matters related to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189). This call is taken into account in meeting the objectives of the Workshop.

The Workshop will provide an overview of the legal regime governing the peaceful uses of outer space, will examine and compare various aspects of the broader perspective of space security in global space governance, including on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, and will address space law and policy in the context of UNISPACE+50 (see box below) with the following objectives:

- To promote understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space;
- To address space governance and the broader perspective of space security, including on norms of behaviour and space policy development;
- To consider space law and policy in the context of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy;
- To study trends and challenges to the progressive development of space law; and
- To assess further needs for capacity-building, assistance and outreach in space law and policy.

The Workshop report will be issued in all official languages of the United Nations to the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2017.