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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Forty-eighth session
23 March-3 April 2009

**National legislation and practice relating to definition and
delimitation of outer space: reply of Mexico**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2008, the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space recommended that member States be invited to submit information on national legislation or any national practices that might exist or were being developed, relating directly or indirectly to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space (see para. 9 (d) of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/917, annex II)).
2. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Mexico. The reply will be also reproduced by the Secretariat in document A/AC.105/865/Add.5.



Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

1. Provision of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States relating to the delimitation of air space and outer space

Article 42. The national territory shall consist of ...

VI. The space located above the national territory to the extent and in accordance with the rules established by international law.

Reflecting Mexico's strong conviction that undecided issues of concern to the international community should be settled by consensus among its members, the Constitution has since 1960 – i.e. before the adoption of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies – provided that the question of the delimitation of air space and outer space shall be settled at some point, ultimately when the common will of States is duly enshrined in a multilateral treaty.

Consequently, in order to ensure that States are at some point able to satisfactorily dispel the uncertainty regarding the delimitation of outer space, it is necessary that the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continue its consideration of the question.
