

21 March 2014

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 24 March-4 April 2014

Contribution of Turkey to the 53rd session of the Legal Subcommittee

Note by the Secretariat

The present document was received by the Secretariat on 20 March 2014 and contains a reply of Turkey to the note verbale of the Office for Outer Space Affairs CU2013/169(A) of 16 August 2013, related to recommendations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its 52nd session, in 2013.

Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and character and utilization of geostationary orbit

Given the current and foreseeable level of development of space and aeronautics technologies in Turkey, there is no national legislation or practice defining or delimiting outer space, nor are they being developed.

Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

Our government places utmost importance to international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In order to contribute to the progressive development of international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, our government has already signed four United Nations treaties on outer space out of five: “The Agreement Between the Government of Turkey and the European Space Agency Concerning Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes”, “Agreement Between the Turkish General Staff of the Republic of Turkey and the Department of Defense of the United States of America for Defense Space Cooperation”, “Convention of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization”, “Agreement Between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Research

V.14-01884 (E)

Please recycle 

and Use of Space” and “Agreement Relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization”.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Given the current level of space activities and technological development in Turkey, we consider that it is not necessary to submit any comments on the issue of amending the four United Nations treaties on outer space signed and ratified by our Government, out of five United Nations treaties.

Capacity-building in space law

The first considerable concern may be the development of International Cooperations of United Nations Member States for the aim of peaceful exploration and usage of outer space. Up to now, there has been a number of instruments such as The Outer Space Treaty, The Moon Agreement etc. which is aimed at international cooperation.

As is known, there are a number of United Nations training and education activities related to space law. However, these activities are carried out in countries with national space law. More broadly, in order to support states to have a national space law and in this regard in order to promote the nations, planning a number of educational activities advisory can be evaluated.

With the development of space technology and globalisation of space market, the application of space law issues has been incrementally needed. In order to meet the needs of space law and to develop the infrastructure of nation’s space law, there exist more education programmes around the world. For all of these reasons and circumstances, cooperation and education programmes within the United Nations, especially including the states, does not have any national space legislation, shall be the most outstanding issues and this results in more strengthen infrastructure of space law in the United Nations.