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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF OUTER SPACE  
Legal Sub-Committee

Canada and France: proposal for a convention on registration  
of objects launched into outer space 1/

The States Parties to this Convention,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration  
and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States  
in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial  
Bodies, affirms that States shall bear international responsibility for their  
/national/ activities in outer space and refers to states of registry for objects  
launched into outer space,

Recalling also that the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of  
Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space provides for a  
launching authority to furnish identifying data upon request prior to the return  
of a space object or its component parts,

Recalling further that, the Convention on International Liability for Damage  
caused by Space Objects elaborates international rules and procedures concerning  
the liability of launching States for damage caused by space objects,

/Considering the advantages, at the international level, of establishing a  
formal link between a space object and a launching State through mandatory  
registration by States of all space objects, and of making provision for the  
marking of space objects/,

/Believing that an adequate mandatory system of registering space objects  
would contribute significantly to their identification and would facilitate the  
application of international law to outer space activities/,

1/ Underlining is used to show changes made in the text prepared by  
the working group at the Legal Sub-Committee's eleventh session.

Believing that, although the public registry system maintained by the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) has been a positive first step, a new and more comprehensive system is required,

Have agreed on the following:

#### Article I

For the purpose of this Convention:

- (a) The term "launching State" means:
- (i) A State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;
  - (ii) A State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched;
- (b) The term "State of registry" means a launching State on whose register a space object is carried and in the case of a joint register means all the States which maintain that register.
- (c) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof.

#### Article II

1. Each space object shall be registered by the launching State or States by means of an entry in an appropriate register maintained either individually or jointly by them. Each space object shall be so registered only once. Such State or States shall inform the Secretary-General of the establishment or termination of all such registers.
2. Where, in respect of any launch, there is more than one State of registry, the States of registry in question shall, for purposes of articles V and VII of the present Convention, designate the State or States among them which shall act as the State or States of registry with respect to each space object launched.

#### Article III

1. States of registry shall, either individually, or where a joint register is maintained, jointly, determine the rules applicable to registration.
2. The entry in the register concerning each object shall include a registration number and such other information as may be relevant. The registration number shall be composed of:

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- (a) The letter C, followed by a dash;
- (b) The radio call signal series assigned to the State of registry by international telecommunication regulations. This mark shall be followed by a dash;
- (c) The registration mark, consisting of Roman capital letters, Arabic numerals or a combination of such letters and numerals.

3. States of registry shall retain jurisdiction and control over such objects, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on a celestial body.

#### Article IV

The State of registry shall mark, internally or externally and in the most appropriate and feasible way, any space object capable of withstanding re-entry with the registration number provided for in article III. Such marking shall be done in accordance with the latest scientific and technological capabilities in this field in the country of registry.

#### Article V

1. The State of registry shall furnish the Secretary-General with the following information, as soon as possible, concerning each registered space object:
- (a) Launching State (including all States referred to in article I (a));
  - (b) The registration number;
  - (c) The day, date and site of launch;
  - (d) Conventional designation of the main launching vehicle;
  - (e) General function;
  - (f) General physical characteristics;
  - (g) Description, including any identifiable features, of components likely to withstand re-entry;
  - (h) Trajectory characteristics, comprising transit and orbit parameters, including nodal period, inclination, apogee and perigee;
  - (i) Expected decay or re-entry date, re-entry trajectory and landing or impact area, and

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(j) Such other information as the State of registry considers helpful in identifying the space object.

2. After the initial information has been provided, the State of registry shall, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, provide the Secretary-General with such data on significant changes in the information furnished in accordance with the preceding paragraph as will assist in identifying the space object.

#### Article VI

1. The Secretary-General shall maintain a central register in which the information furnished in accordance with articles V and VII shall be recorded.

2. States Parties shall have full access to the information in the central register.

#### Article VII

1. Additional relevant information shall be communicated, upon request and to the extent practicable, by the State of registry to any other State Party or to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such a request may be made by a State Party directly to a State of registry or by the Secretary-General on its behalf whenever the State Party has reason to believe that this information is necessary to identify a space object or its parts for purposes of exercising a right or discharging an obligation under Conventions in force to which both the State of registry and the requesting State are Parties.

2. In addition, in the case where the conditions for a request under the preceding paragraph exist but where the identification of a space object has not otherwise been possible, the State Party concerned may request the assistance of States Parties with space monitoring and tracking capacities and facilities. The latter, in the spirit of promoting international co-operation in respect of the exploration and use of outer space, will do their utmost to respond favourably to such a request.

#### Article VIII (former Article V)

States Parties agree to consult from time to time, particularly through the United Nations and its competent organs, in order to determine, in the light of scientific and technical advances, improved methods of giving effect to this Convention.

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#### Article IX

1. In this Convention, with the exception of articles \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, references to States shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities, if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Convention and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States Parties to this Convention and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

2. States members of any such organization which are States Parties to this Convention shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

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