

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Legal Sub-Committee

Text considered by the Working Group on Registration

Preamble

The States Parties to this Convention,

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 further that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects provides rules governing the liability of States for the damage caused by their space objects,

[Considering that there is a fundamental need for the [identification] of space objects in order to facilitate the application of international law to outer space activities,]

[Convinced that an adequate international system of registration of space objects best contributes to facilitating this [identification],]

...

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.

[The term "space object" means a physical object, manned or unmanned, launched into space for purposes of exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

This term includes the launch or transport vehicle, whether recoverable or not, as well as the payload or artificial satellite to be placed in an outer space trajectory.]]

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.

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:

(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. This mark must be clearly distinguishable from those reserved for aircraft or for distress or emergency signals.

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

[Any space object must bear in the most appropriate and feasible way [internally and externally] the registration number [provided for in Art. III and with any other appropriate markings]. Such marking shall be done in accordance with the current state of scientific and technical expertise in this field, in particular in each State of registry, [with the aim of facilitating the most reliable and rapid identification as possible of the space object or its parts]].

Article IV bis

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, possible new methods that might be employed [under Articles III and IV].

Article V

1. The State of registry shall furnish the Secretary-General with the following information, as soon as available, concerning each registered space object:

- (a) Launching State (including all States referred to in Article I (a));
- [(b) Identification markings, including the registration number;
- (c) Date, time and precise location of launch;
- (d) Launch vehicle (where applicable);
- (e) General function and expected operational pattern;
- (f) Physical characteristics;
- (g) Components likely to withstand re-entry;
- (h) Trajectory characteristics, including transit and orbit description;
- (i) Degree of manoeuvrability;
- (j) Expected natural life;
- (k) Expected decay or re-entry date, re-entry trajectory and landing or impact area, and
- (l) 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 [on a continuing and orderly basis].
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

1. In this Convention, with the exception of Articles _____ to _____, references to States shall be deemed to apply to any international inter-governmental 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.

MAY 16 1972

UN/ISA COLLECTION

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

Text considered by the Working Group on Registration

ADDENDUM

On page 2, add the following paragraph as the second paragraph of Article II:

"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 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."

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Legal Sub-Committee

Text considered by the Working Group on Registration

Preamble.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 1 replace the text of the Preamble by the following text:

The States Parties to this Convention

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].

[Convinced that an adequate international system of registration of space objects would contribute significantly to the identification of space objects and would facilitate the application of international law and in particular space law to outer space activities],

[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: