

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACEUNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS: DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE
BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES PERTAINING
TO THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE

The Governments of the States whose representatives have signed this Declaration,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of penetration into outer space,

Recognizing that the peoples of all the countries of the world are interested in the conquest of outer space,

Desiring to promote broad international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Taking into consideration UN General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) approved unanimously by all the States Members of the United Nations,

Solemnly declare that in the exploration and use of outer space they will be guided by the following principles:

1. The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of the whole of mankind.
2. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States; no State may claim sovereignty over outer space and celestial bodies.
3. All States have equal rights to explore and use outer space.
4. The activities of States pertaining to the conquest of outer space shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and with other generally recognized principles of international law in the interests of developing friendly relations among nations and of maintaining international peace and security.

5. Scientific and technological advances shall be applied in outer space in the interests of a better understanding among nations and the promotion of broad international co-operation among States; the use of outer space for propagating war, national or racial hatred or enmity between nations shall be prohibited.

6. Co-operation and mutual assistance in the conquest of outer space shall be a duty incumbent upon all States; the implementation of any measures that in any way hinder the exploration or use of outer space for peaceful purposes of other countries shall be permitted only after prior discussion of and agreement upon such measures between the countries concerned.

7. All activities of any kind pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out solely and exclusively by States; the sovereign rights of States to the objects they launch into outer space shall be retained by them.

8. The use of artificial satellites for the collection of intelligence information in the territory of foreign States is incompatible with the objectives of mankind in its conquest of outer space.

9. States shall regard all astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall render all possible assistance to spaceships and their crews which may make an emergency landing on the territory of a foreign State or on the high seas; spaceships, satellites and capsules found beyond the limits of the launching State shall be returned to that State.

The Governments of the States signatories to this Declaration call upon all the States of the world to accede to it.