



COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: DRAFT PROPOSAL ON LIABILITY FOR
SPACE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Recognizing that there may occur personal injury, loss of life, or property damage as a result of space vehicle accidents,

Recognizing that States and international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for such injury, loss, or damage,

Believing that there should be agreed rules and procedures applicable to such cases,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to constitute a small advisory panel of legal experts drawn from various geographic areas;

2. Requests the advisory panel thus constituted to prepare a draft of an international agreement dealing with the liability of States and international organizations for injury, loss, or damage caused by space vehicles;

3. Commends to the advisory panel for its guidance the following principles:

(a) States or international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage caused thereby, whether such injury, loss, or damage occurs on land, on the sea, or in the air;

(b) A claim based on personal injury, loss of life, or property damage caused by a space vehicle should not require proof of fault on the part of the State or States or international organization responsible for launching the space vehicle in question, although the degree of care which ought reasonably to have been exercised by the person or entity on whose behalf claim is made might properly be taken into account;

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(c) A claim may be presented internationally to the State or States or international organization responsible for the launching of a space vehicle causing injury, loss, or damage without regard to the prior exhaustion of any local remedies that may be available;

(d) The presentation of a claim should be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of injury, loss, or damage;

(e) The International Court of Justice should have jurisdiction to adjudicate any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the international agreement on liability in the absence of agreement between the States concerned upon another means of settlement;

4. Requests the advisory panel to transmit the draft international agreement to the Legal Sub-Committee at an early date.

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