

Annex II

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEM 3 (DRAFT CONVENTION  
ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE FOR  
THE EXPLORATION OR USE OF OUTER SPACE)

(A) Proposals

- (1) United States of America: proposal  
(A/AC.105/C.2/L.85, 19 March 1973)

Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

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 activities in outer space and refers to the registration of 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 that a launching authority shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to the return of an object it has launched into outer space which has come into the possession of another State Party,

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,

Seeking in particular to promote the objectives of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects,

Desiring to provide for States Parties means and procedures to assist in the identification of the launching State of a space object which has caused damage,

Believing that a mandatory international system of registration of objects launched into outer space could contribute to the identification of the launching State of a space object which has caused damage,

Intending to strengthen the present registry system maintained by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in conformance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) and thereby to ensure the maintenance of a comprehensive inventory of objects launched into outer space,

Have agreed as follows:

#### Article I

For the purposes of this Convention,

- (a) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof.
- (b) 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.

#### Article II

1. Each launching State shall maintain either individually or jointly with other launching States an appropriate register of space objects which it has launched into earth orbit or beyond. Each such space object shall be so registered only once. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General of the establishment or termination of all such registers.

2. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General in accordance with article IV of each space object which it has launched into earth orbit or beyond. In the event of joint launches, the launching States participating may designate from among themselves one or more States which shall notify the Secretary-General on their behalf. Notification of joint launches shall include the names of all participating launching States.

#### Article III

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall maintain a central register in which the information furnished in accordance with article IV shall be recorded.

2. There shall be free and unlimited access to the information in the central register.

#### Article IV

1. Each launching State shall furnish to the Secretary-General the following information concerning each space object it has launched into earth orbit or beyond as soon as practicable after launch:

- (a) Name of launching State or States;
- (b) International designator, which shall consist of
- (i) The year of launch, followed by a dash,
- (ii) A two-letter launching State designator assigned by the Secretary-General, followed by a dash, and
- (iii) An appropriate sequential number;
- (c) Conventional designation of the main launching vehicle;
- (d) Date, time and place of launch;
- (e) Basic orbital parameters, including
- (i) Nodal period,
- (ii) Inclination,
- (iii) Apogee, and
- (iv) Perigee;
- (f) General function of the space object, indicated by letter reference to the following categories:
- (i) A - Development of space flight techniques and technology
- (ii) B - Space research and exploration
- (iii) C - Practical applications of space based on technology
- (iv) D - Non-functional objects;
- (g) Such other information as the launching State may wish to submit from time to time.

2. Each launching State shall notify the Secretary-General as soon as practicable of space objects which it has launched which are no longer in orbit.

Article V

States Parties to this Convention, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible to requests by any other State Party to this Convention or to the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, or by the Secretary-General on their behalf, for assistance in addition to the information supplied pursuant to article IV in the identification of a particular space object which has caused damage for the purpose of facilitating the settlement of claims for such damage. State Parties making such requests shall, to the extent practicable, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the damage.

Article VI

1. With the exception of articles VII through X of this Convention, 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.

Article VII

1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with \_\_\_\_\_, which are hereby designated the Depositary Governments.

3. This Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

/...

5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Convention, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

6. This Convention shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article VIII

Any State Party to this Convention may propose amendments to this Convention. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Convention accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Convention and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Convention on the date of acceptance by it.

Article IX

Any State Party to this Convention may give notice of its withdrawal from the Convention one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Depositary Governments. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article X

This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Convention shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Convention.

Done in \_\_\_\_\_ at the cities of \_\_\_\_\_,  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-\_\_\_\_.

/...

- (2) Canada and France: proposal for a convention on registration of objects launched into outer space a/

(A/AC.105/C.2/L.86, 27 March 1973)

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/,

a/ 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:

/...

- (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

/...

- (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.

/...

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.

(3) Argentina: proposal

(A/AC.105/C.2/L.87, 11 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

New article

1. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect other international agreements in force in so far as relations between the States Parties to such agreements are concerned.

2. Nothing in this Convention shall prevent States from concluding international agreements reaffirming, supplementing or extending its provisions.

(B) Working papers

(1) Argentina: working paper (2 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Amendment to article VII, para. 2, of the proposal by the  
United States of America (A/AC.105/C.2/L.85)

"2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, hereby designated as the depositary."

(2) Argentina: working paper (11 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Article IV

1. The Secretary-General shall register the information furnished in accordance with article III.

2. Access to the information recorded by the Secretary-General shall be full and open to all States, whether or not Parties to this Convention.

(3) France: working paper (9 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Article II

2. Where there are two or more Launching States in respect of any space object launched into earth orbit or beyond, they shall designate one of them as the State on whose registry the space object shall be carried.

3. However, the Launching States may agree that each State shall carry the space object on its registry. Each State shall indicate in its registry the parts of the space object which belong to it. The same space object or certain parts thereof may be carried on several registries where they belong jointly to several Launching States.

4. The contents of and conditions under which each registry is maintained shall be determined by the State or States concerned.

5. The State on whose registry the object is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on a celestial body.

However, where there are several States on whose registries the object is carried, they may agree that each State shall retain jurisdiction and control over the personnel of its nationality, as well as over the part of the space object which belongs to it.

(4) France: working paper (9 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Article V

1. States Parties to this Convention shall make every effort to respond to requests by any other State Party to this Convention, or by the Secretary-General on their behalf, for assistance in addition to the information supplied pursuant to article IV in the identification of a particular space object which has caused damage for the purpose of facilitating the settlement of claims for such damage. States Parties making such requests shall, to the extent practicable, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the damage.

2. Where the requests for assistance mentioned in the preceding paragraph fail to lead to the identification of the space object which has caused the damage, the requesting State may request the States Parties, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, to provide it with assistance in the identification of the space object, under equitable and reasonable conditions.

(5) France: working paper (12 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Article V

Where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not enabled a State Party to identify a space object which has caused damage in its territory, States Parties to this Convention, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible

to requests by any other State Party to this Convention, or transmitted through the Secretary-General on their behalf, for assistance under equitable and reasonable conditions in the identification of the object for the purpose of facilitating the settlement of claims for such damages. States Parties making such requests shall, to the extent practicable, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the damage. Arrangements under which such assistance shall be rendered shall be the object of agreement between the parties concerned.

(6) Canada: working paper (18 April 1973)

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS  
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Draft article on "marking"

The State of Registry shall mark, in the most appropriate and feasible way, each space object it launches into earth orbit or beyond with the international designator or registration number.