



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

### National legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### Addendum

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## II. Replies received from Member States

### Netherlands

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[3 March 2010]

The Space Activities Act of the Netherlands (*Wet ruimtevaartactiviteiten*) makes use of the term “outer space” (*kosmische ruimte*) in order to define the scope of the Act (*ratione materiae*, art. 2). The Act, however, does not define outer space or delimit outer space and airspace.

Reference is made to outer space in the definitions of “space activities” (*ruimtevaartactiviteiten*) and “space objects” (*ruimtevoorwerp*). The term “space activities” is defined as the launch, the flight operation or the guidance of space objects in outer space (art. 1 (b)); “space object” is defined as any object launched or destined to be launched into outer space (art. 1 (c)). The scope of the Act is thus not limited to activities in outer space, notwithstanding the absence of a definition or even an indication of where airspace ends and where outer space begins. This is in line with the application of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects<sup>1</sup> to space objects launched or intended to be launched into outer space, regardless of their geographical location at the time when damage is caused.

The only authorization granted to date under the Space Activities Act concerns the operation of satellites in orbit. As no one could reasonably argue that the satellites concerned are not operating in outer space, the question of the definition of outer space or the delimitation of airspace and outer space is not relevant. Accordingly, in national practice, the need to define or delimit outer space has not yet arisen.

### Tunisia

[Original: French]  
[25 March 2010]

Tunisia has ratified three of the five United Nations treaties on the peaceful uses of outer space, namely:

(a) The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies<sup>2</sup> (ratification: Law No. 68-6 of 8 March 1968 (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia (JORT)* No. 11 of 8-12 March 1968));

(b) The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space<sup>3</sup> (ratification: Law No. 70-63 of 8 December 1970 (*JORT* No. 55 of 8-11 December 1970));

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 672, No. 9574.

(c) The Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects<sup>4</sup> (ratification: Law No. 73-11 of 23 March 1973 (*JORT* No. 11 of 20-23 March 1973)).

The National Commission for Outer Space Affairs will suggest the legislative adjustments required in accordance with those ratifications.

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 961, No. 13810.