



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 December 2010

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: replies from Member States

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from Member States	2
Mauritius	2
Norway	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3



I. Introduction

1. At the forty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2006, the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space agreed to address to Member States the following questions:

(a) Does your Government consider it necessary to define outer space and/or to delimit airspace and outer space, given the current level of space and aviation activities and technological development in space and aviation technologies? Please provide a justification for the answer; or

(b) Does your Government consider another approach to solving this issue? Please provide a justification for the answer (A/AC.105/871, annex II, para. 7 (f)).

At the forty-ninth session, in 2010, the Working Group agreed to address to the Governments of Member States the following additional question:

(c) Does your Government give consideration to the possibility of defining a lower limit of outer space and/or an upper limit of airspace, recognizing at the same time the possibility of enacting special international or national legislation relating to a mission carried out by an object in both airspace and outer space? (A/AC.105/942, annex II, para. 11 (c)).

2. Also at the forty-ninth session, the Working Group invited Member States to submit their replies to the above questions (A/AC.105/942, annex II, para. 11 (b) and (c)).

3. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies received from Mauritius, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in November 2010.

II. Replies received from Member States

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[26 November 2010]

Mauritius does not carry out any outer space activities. With regard to civil aviation activities, airspace up to the level of 46,000 feet in the Flight Information Region is controlled by the Area Control Centre, while the airspace above 46,000 feet remains uncontrolled.

Norway

[Original: English]
[23 November 2010]

Question (a). At present, Norway does not consider it necessary to define/delimit airspace and outer space. The absence of such definitions/delimitations has so far not been an impediment to Norwegian space activities.

Question (b). Norway does not consider any other approaches to solving this issue.

Question (c). At present, Norway does not consider this possibility.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[23 November 2010]

Question (b). We anticipate that the development of space transportation systems functioning seamlessly between airspace and outer space, relying on lift to fly through the air for part of their flight profile, will create uncertainties about the legal regime applicable to them. In particular, the distinct liability regimes applicable to each may be conflicting. The United Kingdom is currently reviewing its licensing process and how it could relate to commercial human spaceflight, where this will likely be an issue. We recognize the need to avoid hybrid solutions and will seek a regulatory solution that provides seamless consideration and a degree of legal certainty for operators.

Question (c). Although the United Kingdom is not considering the possibility of defining a lower limit of outer space and/or an upper limit of airspace, the United Kingdom may consider the possibility of enacting special international or national legislation relating to a mission carried out by an object in both airspace and outer space.
