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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

Implementation of recommendations to build capacity in space law

Report of the Secretariat

1. At its forty-eighth session, in 2009, the Legal Subcommittee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to prepare a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space relating to capacity-building in space law.
2. The present report provides an overview of the status of implementation of the recommendations on capacity-building in space law and proposes some ways and means of giving practical effect to those not yet implemented.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.277.



Status of implementation of recommendations relating to capacity-building in space law

Recommendation	Year	Status of Implementation	Proposals for implementation
1. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should compile a directory of institutions teaching space law (A/AC.105/805, annex I, para. 8 and A/58/20, para. 160).	2003	Implemented. <i>Education Opportunities in Space Law: A Directory</i> was first published by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in 2004 and is updated annually.	-
2. Institutions teaching international and national space law should participate in an electronic network (A/AC.105/805, annex I, para. 9, and A/58/20, para. 161). ^a	2003	Under way. The European Centre for Space Law has informed the Subcommittee of the establishment of a virtual network, free of charge, on space law and policy for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Space_Law_virtual_network_Latin_America/index.html). The Centre also maintains a list of national points of contact to facilitate the dissemination of information and the organization of activities for countries in Europe (www.esa.int/SPECIALS/ECSL/SEMY9NGHZTD_0.html).	The Office for Outer Space Affairs could support the wider dissemination of information about such networks by requesting member States and permanent observers of the Committee to provide information on electronic or other networks dedicated to space law. Any information received could be circulated annually to the Legal Subcommittee.
3. Regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated to the United Nations should include a basic course on space law in their curricula (A/AC.105/805, annex I, para. 10 and A/58/20, para. 162).	2003	Under way. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean has informed the Subcommittee about the inclusion of space law in the curriculum of the course on remote sensing offered at the Brazil Campus. (A/AC.105/871, para. 65). Work is also currently under way by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the regional centres and participating educators to finalize a basic course on space law that could be integrated into the educational frameworks of the regional centres.	-

^a In accordance with the recommendation, the network could be organized with regional, subregional and national focal points. Institutions in the network could exchange information on activities to promote capacity-building in international and national space law, especially in developing countries. Those activities might include participation in joint research with institutions in developing countries, the establishment of exchange programmes with such institutions or the provision of information and materials on international and national space law to such institutions.

Recommendation	Year	Status of Implementation	Proposals for implementation
4. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should maintain an up-to-date database on national space legislation and policy on the basis of information provided by Member States (A/61/20, para. 191).	2006	Implemented. The database of national space laws and policies is periodically updated on the basis of information provided by Member States.	-
5. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should further develop and update the directory of education opportunities in space law, including information on the availability of fellowships for participants from developing countries (A/AC.105/891, para. 60 and A/62/20, para. 190).	2007	Implemented. The directory contains information on the availability of fellowships. The possibility of converting the directory into a searchable database was explored by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the past year but this could not go ahead owing to a lack of sufficient funds to cover the associated costs.	-
6. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to explore the possibility of developing a curriculum for a basic course on space law that could be used by the regional centres on space science and technology education affiliated to the United Nations (A/AC.105/891, para. 60 and A/62/20, para. 190).	2007	Under way. Work to develop the course was initiated in 2007 and is still under way (see recommendation 3).	-
7. In developing the curriculum for a basic course on space law, consideration should be given to its usefulness to other educational institutions and training initiatives (A/AC.105/917, para. 123).	2008	Under way. The recommendation has been brought to the attention of the participating educators and efforts are under way to prepare the curriculum in such a way that other educational institutions could use it for shaping their own programmes.	-

Recommendation	Year	Status of Implementation	Proposals for implementation
8. The introduction of air and space law modules in the general international law courses of national educational institutions (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (a)).	2008	Under way. Member States informed the Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, on the inclusion of space law as a course or as a module in the general international law courses at their national education institutions. ^b Information received from Member States before the current session of the Subcommittee will be circulated as a conference room paper.	The Office for Outer Space Affairs could explore ways and means of using its website to disseminate the information provided to the Subcommittee.
9. The creation of regional and international space law information networks and partnerships (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (b)).	2008	Could be considered as implemented (see recommendation 2).	-
10. The creation of a database of experts working in the field of space law (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (c)).	2008	Not yet implemented. There is currently no information regarding the availability of such a database.	The Office for Outer Space Affairs could explore the feasibility of creating such a database, subject to the Office being able to identify sufficient human and financial resources for the establishment and long-term maintenance and management of the database.
11. The dissemination, through the Internet, reports, studies, papers, articles, reviews and other reference resources relating to space law that were in the public domain (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (d)).	2008	Implemented. Currently several Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, the permanent observers of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs are disseminating, through their respective websites, selected reports, studies and other information relating to space law.	The Office for Outer Space Affairs could explore the possibility of providing links to these sources of information through its website with a view to creating a central starting point for information relating to space law.
12. The updating of the publication <i>International Agreements and Other Available Legal Documents Relevant to Space-Related Activities</i> , prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (e)).	2008	Not yet implemented	The Office for Outer Space Affairs would be willing to explore the feasibility of reformulating and updating this document as an e-publication or information resource, as appropriate, if it could be determined that no such publication or service already exists. The Office would welcome information in this regard. Cost implications (including the availability of human resources) would have to be considered before implementing this recommendation.

^bA/AC.105/C.2/2009/CRP.7 and Add.1.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Status of Implementation</i>	<i>Proposals for implementation</i>
13. The development of a short online course on space law (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (f)).	2008	Not yet implemented	-
14. The establishment of a fellowship programme providing financial support to enable young professionals to pursue further education in space law (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (g)).	2008	Not yet implemented	-
15. The establishment of training opportunities with organizations and institutions working in space-related areas to enhance the capabilities and increase the experience of young professionals, particularly from developing countries, in the field of space law (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (h)).	2008	Under way. The Office of Outer Space Affairs currently offers a limited number of short-term internship opportunities for young professionals to familiarize themselves with the work of the Committee, including space law.	The Office for Outer Space Affairs would be willing to explore the possibility of providing the links to other entities with training opportunities on its website with a view to creating a central starting point for young professionals interested in increasing their experience.
16. The creation of exchange programmes between educational institutions to facilitate training in other countries while reducing the costs associated with international travel (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (i)).	2008	To be determined. Member States informed the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session on the support provided to facilitate training and experience-building opportunities. ^b Information received from Member States before the current session of the Subcommittee will be circulated as a conference room paper.	The Office of Outer Space Affairs could explore ways and means of using its website to disseminate the information provided to the Subcommittee.

Recommendation	Year	Status of Implementation	Proposals for implementation
17. The development of a strategy to help developing countries to build their capacity in space law, including through the provision of targeted assistance that would take advantage of the training capabilities of other institutions (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (j)).	2008	Under way. Building capacity in space law is a pillar of the Office for Outer Space Affairs programme on space law. The main component of its work relates to the annual workshops on space law and policy, which were initiated following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and, more recently, the development of a curriculum on space law. The promotion of information on the legal issues relating to outer space, education opportunities in this field and technical legal advisory support are other components of its programme. The capacity of the Office to deliver consistently in all these areas is however constrained by its limited human and financial resources.	The development of such a dedicated international strategy could be one of the contributions of the Legal Subcommittee under its agenda item "Capacity-building in space law". The strategy should take into consideration the financial and human resource implications for entities that might be tasked with implementing the strategy in the long term.
18. The establishment of a regional centre on space science and technology education in Eastern Europe for countries with economies in transition (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (k)).	2008	Not yet implemented.	-
19. The dissemination of information on space law through special activities and events, such as the World Space Week (A/AC.105/917, para. 128 (l)).	2008	Implemented. Currently, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, the permanent observers of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs are disseminating information on space law through various activities or special events. ^b Information received from Member States before the current session of the Subcommittee will be circulated as a conference room paper.	The Office for Outer Space Affairs could explore ways and means of using its website to disseminate the information provided by Member States and permanent observers of the Committee.
20. The curriculum on space law should be structured in such a manner that it might also serve as a basis for other educational institutions and training initiatives (A/AC.105/935, para. 123).	2009	Under way (see recommendation 7).	-