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Item 10 of the draft provisional agenda*

Capacity-building in space law

Report on the second United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law

(Tehran, 12-13 November 2009)

I. Background and objectives

1. The first United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law was held in Vienna on 3 and 4 December 2007 (A/AC.105/908) in response to the request of the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat continue exploring 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).

2. That Meeting carried out the first reading of the syllabus for a basic course on space law and agreed to continue developing the curriculum by communicating by electronic means and/or in the margins of other meetings. A preliminary draft of the education curriculum on space law, developed by the group of educators participating in this work, was presented for information to the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session, in 2009 (A/AC.105/C.2/2009/CRP.5). The Subcommittee underlined the important role that the regional centres could play in supporting capacity-building in space law and encouraged the further development of the curriculum (A/AC.105/935, paras. 120-124).

3. The second United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law, organized to further develop the curriculum, was held in Tehran on 12 and

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



13 November 2009, following the Workshop on Space Law on the theme “Role of international space law in the development and strengthening of international and regional cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”, also held in Tehran, from 8 to 11 November 2009 (A/AC.105/956).

4. The present report provides an overview of the work conducted at the second Meeting and sets out its main recommendations and conclusions.

II. Programme

5. The main objective of the Meeting was to revise the draft curriculum taking into account the comments and observations received from the Committee and the member States.

6. During the course of the Meeting, participants evaluated the structure and the content of the first draft of the curriculum on space law to harmonize and finalize the information to be contained in each module. Participants also discussed ways of ensuring the continuation of the work following the conclusion of the Meeting.

III. Attendance

7. The Meeting was attended by the following educators: Maureen Williams (International Law Association, University of Buenos Aires), Armel Kerrest (Institut de droit des espaces et des télécommunications, Université de Bretagne occidentale), Nataliya Malysheva (International Centre for Space Law), Joanne Gabrynowicz (National Remote Sensing and Space Law Centre, University of Mississippi), Vassilios Cassapoglou (Department of International Studies, Faculty of Law, National and Capodistrian University of Athens (retired)), Tanja Masson-Zwaan (International Institute of Space Law, International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University), Paul Larsen (Georgetown University Law Center), Haifeng Zhao (School of Law, Harbin Institute of Technology), Elham Aminzadeh (University of Tehran) and Hodjat Khadjavi (McGill University). The Meeting was also attended by Ahmad Talebzadeh (Iranian Space Agency) and staff from the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

IV. Recommendations and conclusions

8. The Meeting confirmed that the education curriculum on space law would consist of two complementary modules. The first module, to be offered to all students, would address the basic concepts of international law and provide an introduction to the legal regime governing the conduct of space activities. The second module that would be oriented towards providing information on the international law and regulations applicable to the specific applications currently covered under the existing education programme of the centres, namely, remote sensing and geographic information systems, satellite meteorology and global climate, satellite communications, and space and atmospheric sciences.

9. The Meeting reviewed and agreed on a harmonized structure for each of the modules of the curriculum.

10. The Meeting welcomed the addition of a module on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and applicable international law and regulation, which was being developed in anticipation of courses on GNSS being offered by the regional centres in the future.
 11. The Meeting agreed to explore the possibility of including in each module a section to help students to test their comprehension of the content.
 12. The Meeting agreed that the basic course on space law should be taught by professionals with a background in law.
 13. The Meeting requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to seek additional information from the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, on their current operations and the future implementation of the curriculum on space law.
 14. The Meeting agreed that the participants would continue their work by electronic means and by meeting in the margins of other activities during the course of 2010.
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