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**Benefits of becoming a party to Treaties and
conducting space activities in accordance with
the Principles**

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My intention here is to briefly present you with some general thoughts on the benefits of becoming a party to international treaties today, including treaties related to outer space and space activities.

I would like to invite you to not only keep in mind the specificities of Space Law, but also to see this new branch of law as an integral part of the contemporary General International Law – a cultural achievement of the mankind, which in the present time of the history of our planet must be defended, preserved and developed with the best resources of our intelligence.

In my view, there are at least three great benefits of becoming a party to Treaties, in particular multilateral ones are:

- **First Benefit: International Rule of Law**
- To contribute to the establishment and consolidation of a Rule of Law in international relations, including those related to the dissemination and access to the most important science and technology advancements;
- In the world of today we can note a strong and harmful tendency to the relativization of social, cultural, ethical, and legal values, confusing and weakening them. The Rule of Law is a suitable way to put the most important values in the appropriate and deserved level of respectability.
- In our time the Rule of Law is much more effective inside countries than in international life;

- We all know very well the alternatives to Rule of Law: disorder, chaos, fear, uncertainty, insecurity, iniquity, injustice, dominance of the stronger;
 - Rule of Law is a strong safeguard against arbitrary rulings and actions in all areas, including outer space and internal space activities;
 - It means clarity and transparency of rights and obligations;
 - Rule of Law is an essential component of civilization, peaceful and friendship relations and constructive understanding among countries, peoples and individuals;
 - It is fundamental to cultivate and strengthen a really open society and a democratic political regime, according to the best national and international values;
 - Rule of Law is indispensable in all stages of the international cooperation.
- **Second benefit: Predictability**
 - All States and all peoples can clearly know in advance the rules of the game; the possible, probable and permitted developments; and the expected point of arrival;
 - No surprises, no deviations, no coups, no suspicions, no misgivings, no stress;
 - Transparency, certainty, security, reliability, safety, sound and constructive environment, tranquility, better conditions of working and negotiations;
 - Best stimulus for accurate and responsible planning and decision-making process;
 - Best stimulus for developing, improving and increasing plans, programs, and projects;
 - Best stimulus for social and economic, political, cultural and legal development, and general progress;
 - **Third benefit: pursuing of justice and order**

On the basis of the Rule of Law, all parties:

- Can defend their legitimate rights and interests in better conditions;
- Can take a legal action in a suitable form;
- Can fight for the equality of parties before the law, as well as for its equitable application;
- Can evaluate the effectiveness of the existing treaties and principles and propose their reviewing, updating and/or renewal;
- Can propose new agreements, instruments, declarations and legislation to regulate new areas or activities; the use of new technologies.

In conclusion

Let me remind you the words of one of the greatest jurists of our time, Judge Manfred Lachs, former Chairman of the International Court of Justice and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), who presided the difficult and historic process of elaboration and approval, at the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), of the 1967 Treaty on Principal Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the cornerstone of all the building of International Space Law:

"If all activities connected with outer space are to be conducted for the benefit of all and to the detriment of none, international cooperation is essential, and if all the possibilities opened up are to be used in a responsible manner, the conduct of States in regard to outer space must be submitted to the rule of law."

(Manfred Lachs, *The Law of Outer Space: An Experience in Contemporary Law Making*, 1972)

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