



Space Law Update

Legal Subcommittee 29 March to 8 April 2004

The forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee will meet in Vienna from 29 March to 8 April 2004.

At this year's session, the Subcommittee will discuss two new agenda items. Under single issues/items for discussion, the Subcommittee will consider its contribution to the Committee's report to the General Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

Under work plans, the Subcommittee will consider the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects. The work plan on this item was adopted by the Legal Subcommittee in 2003. At this year's session, the first year of the work plan, member States and international organizations will report on their practice in registering space objects and submit the required information to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for inclusion on the Register. Based on the recommendation of the Committee in June 2003, member States could make presentations on their practices in registering space objects and the Office for Outer Space Affairs will make a presentation on the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Under its regular items, the Subcommittee will consider the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space. In addition to other matters, the Legal Subcommittee should consider, as agreed by the Committee in June 2003, the revised text of the proposal for a draft resolution on the application of the legal concept of the 'Launching State', for consideration by the General Assembly, as contained in document A/AC.105/L.249 (A/58/20, para. 153). The Working Group will also be reconvened under this agenda item.

Other items to be considered by the Subcommittee include: Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law; matters relating to: (a) the definition and delimitation of outer space and (b) the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without preju-



dice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union; examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment: (a) considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol and (b) considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space; and proposals for new agenda items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee in 2005.

The working groups on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets will also be reconvened.

The provisional agenda for the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-third session is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.247. The report of the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session, in 2003, is contained in document A/AC.105/805. Both documents are available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/COPUOS/Legal/index.html>.

Inside this issue:

UN/Republic of Korea Workshop on Space Law Daejeon, 3 to 6 November 2003	2
IISL/ECSL Symposium during 43rd session of the Legal Subcommittee	3
Brazil to host next Space Law Workshop	3
Status of the Outer Space Treaties	3
Education Opportunities in Space Law	3
UN Documents Reference	3
On the web	4

UN/Republic of Korea Workshop on Space Law Daejeon, 3 to 6 November 2003

The United Nations/Republic of Korea Workshop on Space Law on the theme "United Nations Treaties on Outer Space: actions at the national level" was held at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), in Daejeon, Republic of Korea from 3 to 6 November 2003, for the benefit of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Republic of Korea.

The workshop promoted the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants held positions in governmental departments, space agencies, international organizations, universities, research institutions and private practice. They included experts in space law as well as professionals relatively new to the field, selected on the basis of their potential to influence the development of space law, policy and education in their countries.

Approximately 97 participants from the following 27 countries attended the workshop: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

The programme of the workshop was divided into two segments. The Government Official segment was structured to especially benefit government officials, particularly those from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. This segment provided a detailed briefing on the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, as well as national registries and licensing regimes. The Space Law Specialist segment was aimed at participants with advanced knowledge in space law and allowed them to discuss specific issues related to the United Nations treaties on outer space.

In addition to introductory and welcoming statements made by representatives of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute and the United Nations Secretariat, the workshop also heard presentations on the national space policies and institutions of Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States of America.

The Government Official and Space Law Specialist segments focussed on the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Outer Space Treaty), the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Ob-

(Continued on page 3)



Photo credit: Joanne Gabrynowicz

(Continued from page 2)

jects Launched into Outer Space (the Rescue Agreement), the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (the Liability Convention), the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (the Registration Convention) and the five United Nations Principles on Outer Space.

The last session of the workshop was devoted to finalizing observations and conclusions of the workshop.

In total, twenty-six papers were presented by invited speakers from both developing and developed countries.

A detailed report, including the observations and conclusions agreed upon at the workshop can be found in United Nations document A/AC.105/814.

Papers presented at the workshop as well as the final report can be found on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/workshops/index.html>.

IISL/ECSL Symposium to be held on 29 March 2004 during the 43rd session of the Legal Subcommittee

The International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) will, on invitation of the Legal Subcommittee, hold a symposium, entitled "New developments and the legal framework covering the exploitation of the resources of the Moon" during the 43rd session of the Legal Subcommittee. The Symposium will be held on 29 March 2004, at 16h00. The programme will be made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Brazil to host next Space Law Workshop

The Government of Brazil will host the next space law workshop in November 2004. The announcement was made by Brazil during the 41st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in Vienna, from 16 to 27 February 2004.

More information on the venue and programme of the workshop will be provided in the next space law update and will also be made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Status of the United Nations Treaties on Outer Space

With the ratification of Greece on 27 May 2003 of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into

Outer Space, the status of the United Nations Treaties on Outer Space is as follows:

	<i>Ratifications/ Signatures</i>
Outer Space Treaty	98/27
Rescue Agreement	88/25
Liability Convention	82/25
Registration Convention	45/4
Moon Agreement	10/5

Education Opportunities in Space Law

On the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee at its 42nd session, in 2003, the Office invited educational institutions to submit information on their courses and programmes related to space law. Based on the information received, the Office has compiled a directory of institutions teaching space law. The directory will be presented to the Legal Subcommittee at its next session.

Educators and Institutions interested in submitting information or updating existing information are requested to contact the United Nations for Outer Space Affairs.

UN Documents Reference

Reports of the Legal Subcommittee

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
2003	42nd session	A/AC.105/805
2002	41st session	A/AC.105/787
2001	40th session	A/AC.105/763
2000	39th session	A/AC.105/738

Reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
2003	46th session	A/58/20
2002	45th session	A/57/20
2001	44th session	A/56/20
2000	43rd session	A/55/20

UNISPACE III

<i>Title</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
UNISPACE III Report (including the Vienna Declaration)	A/CONF.184/6

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Report of the Chairman of the
Legal Subcommittee to
UNISPACE III

A/CONF.184/4

Annual Publications

<i>Title</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
Highlights in Space 2003	ST/SPACE/21
United Nations Treaties and Principle on Outer Space	ST/SPACE/11 and Add.1/ Rev.1
Proceedings: UN/IIASL Workshop on Capacity Building in Space Law The Hague, Netherlands 18-21 November 2003	ST/SPACE/14

On the Web

The following information is available on the website of the
Office for Outer Space Affairs:

General Assembly Resolutions

From 1958 to present
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/gares/index.html>

United Nations Treaties and Principles on outer space

Full texts
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/treaties.html>

Legal Subcommittee

Provisional Agendas and reports of the Legal Subcommit-
tee (2001-2003)

Unedited transcripts of the Legal Subcommittee (2000-
2002)

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/COPUOS/Legal/index.html>

United Nations workshops on space law

Proceedings of the United Nations/International Institute
of Air and Space Law Workshop on Capacity Building in
Space Law, held in The Hague, Netherlands, from 18-21
November 2002

Proceedings of the United Nations/Republic of Korea
Workshop on Space Law, entitled "United Nations Trea-
ties on Outer Space: actions at national level", held in Dae-
jeon, Republic of Korea, from 3-6 November 2003

[http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/workshops/
index.html](http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/workshops/index.html)

National laws governing space activities

Selected examples of the national laws of the following
countries are available: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Can-
ada, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russian Fed-
eration, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United
Kingdom and United States of America

[http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/national/index.
html](http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/national/index.html)

Legal studies and background documents on space law

List of international agreements relevant to space-related
activities

Review of existing national space legislation illustrating
how States are implementing, as appropriate, their respon-
sibilities to authorize and provide continuing supervision
of non-governmental entities in outer space

[http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/studies/index.
html](http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/studies/index.html)

Notifications from States and Organiza- tions of objects launched into outer space

From 1976 to present

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/OSOIndex/docsstatidx.html>



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

P. O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Phone: +43 1 26060 4950, Fax: +43 1 26060 5830
Email: oosa@unvienna.org
Website: www.oosa.unvienna.org

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science technology. Located in Vienna, Austria, OOSA maintains a website at <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org>.