



United Nations/Nigeria Workshop on Space Law, Abuja, 21 - 24 November 2005

“Meeting international responsibilities and addressing domestic needs”, is the theme of the next United Nations Workshop on Space Law, which will be held from 21 to 24 November 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria.



Co-organized with, and hosted by, the Government of Nigeria, the workshop will provide an overview of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, examine and compare various aspects of existing national space laws and consider ways and means of enhancing education in space law in the African region. In

addition, the workshop will also consider other space-related issues, such as space insurance, intellectual property rights and legal and regulatory developments in aeronautical communications and navigation. Each session will consist of presentations, round-tables and discussion periods.

More information on the programme of the workshop and the venue can be found on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/workshops/index.html>).

Call for submissions: Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law

All educators and institutions offering courses in space law or related areas are invited to update or submit new information to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for inclusion in the Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law.

The Directory, which serves as a reference source for those interested in space law and policy, currently contains information on education programmes and courses offered by 40 universities and institutions in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil,

Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Directory and the submission forms can be found on the website of the Office at <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/educationdirectory/index.html>

Review of the work of the 44th session of the Legal Subcommittee (4-15 April 2005)

At its forty-fourth session, held in Vienna from 4 to 15 April 2005, the Legal Subcommittee addressed a number of key issues, including the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects, the examination of a preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets, and the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

Under the agenda item dealing with the registration practices of States and international organizations, the Subcommittee established a Working Group to examine reports by Member States and international organizations on their practices. Amongst the practices described to the Working Group were those relating to: establishing and maintaining national registries of objects launched into outer space; determining the criteria for including objects in national registries; the

procedures applied in cases where more than one party is involved in the launch, or
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where private entities or international organizations are involved; and the registration of functional and non-functional objects. The Subcommittee agreed to discuss at its next session, the harmonization of the administrative and practical aspects of registration, the non-registration of space-objects, the practice relating to the transfer of ownership of space objects in orbit, and the registration and non-registration of 'foreign' space objects. The Subcommittee agreed that continuing the discussion of the practice of States in registering space objects was a necessary element in enhancing adherence to the Registration Convention.

The examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment focussed on two issues under this agenda item: the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol, and the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regimes applicable to outer space. The Working Group that had been reconvened under this item to consider these issues was assisted by the work of the open-ended ad hoc working group that had carried out its work intersessionally under the coordination of the delegation of the Netherlands, and had considered the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol. In particular, the Working Group was assisted by the draft report prepared by the coordinator, René Lefebvre. After lengthy deliberation, it was agreed that consensus regarding the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority could not be reached. The Subcommittee agreed, however, to continue to examine and review the developments regarding the draft protocol at its next session.

The Subcommittee continued to discuss the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and called on Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat

with information on their national space legislation and policy, which would then be included in the database maintained by the Secretariat on this matter. The Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group under this agenda item could consider a questionnaire on possible options for future development of international space law at its next session in 2006.

The next session of the Legal Subcommittee will take place from 3-13 April, 2006.



Review of the work of the 48th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (8-17 June 2005)

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-eighth session in Vienna from 8 to 17 June 2005. Representatives from 55 member States of the Committee attended the session, including from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Thailand, as new members of the Committee.

At this year's session, H.E. Jean Ping, President of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, addressed the opening meeting and highlighted the work of the Committee in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space as an essential contribution to the development agenda of the United Nations.

The Committee considered the following items: ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; implementation of the recommendations of the Third United

Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III); the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session; the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session; current status of the spin-off benefits of space technology; space and society; space and water; and the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007, as well as other matters.

Under the agenda item on UNISPACE III, the Committee noted that the recommendations of UNISPACE III have continued to be implemented by member States through national, regional and international efforts and through the work of some of the action teams established by the Committee, which have created a unique and useful mechanism

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to ensure the implementation of a large number of recommendations, while preserving the pivotal role of member States.

Under the item on space and society, the Committee continued the discussion on "Space and Education" for the second year, in accordance with the work plan for 2004-2006. The Committee heard several presentations and statements highlighting the efforts of member States, particularly developing States, to bring space into education, and noted an increased awareness among the general public of the benefits of space technology for social, economic and cultural development.

This was also the second year the Committee considered the item on space and water. The Committee agreed to retain this item on its agenda, due to the importance of water as an essential natural resource for humankind, and it emphasized the importance of international efforts to promote equitable water distribution, efficient water resource management, the search for water sources in areas experiencing shortages for consumption and economic activity, as well as to predict and mitigate water-related emergencies. The Committee will therefore continue the consideration of this item at its forty-ninth session, in 2006.

At this year's session of the Committee, a special symposium on Space and Archaeology was held, which was co-organized by OOSA, UNESCO and the Institute for Global Mapping and Research of Austria. The Symposium demonstrated the opportunities offered to archaeology by space technology and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the use of space technologies to support the World Heritage Convention.

The next session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be held from 7-16 June 2006.

Database of national space law and policy to be updated

Over the next few months, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be updating its national space law and policy database. The database serves to widely disseminate information relating to existing national space law and policy, and promote the further development of such legislation. With the support of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office is seeking information on any national space-related laws and regulations, as well as policy documents that could be included in such a database.

Currently the database contains the texts of or links to the national laws of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the United States.

Information on other national space-related legislation can be sent to the Office for Outer Space Affairs (P. O. Box

500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria or by e-mail to ooosa@unvienna.org)

Belgium Parliament adopts a national space law

On 28 June 2005 the Belgian Federal Parliament adopted the law on the activities of launching, flight operations or guidance of space objects. More information, including the text of the law, can be found on the website of the Belgian Science Policy Office at http://www.belspo.be/belspo/res/rech/spatres/loispat_en.stm

Proceedings of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law

The proceedings of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 25 November 2004, is now available on the website of the Office at <http://www.ooosa.unvienna.org/SpaceLaw/workshops/index.html>.

The proceedings contain papers as well as power point presentations on the development of international and national space law as well as other issues that were discussed during the workshop. The observations, recommendations and conclusions of the workshops are also contained in these proceedings.

Information provided by States under the Outer Space Treaties and GA resolution 1721 B (XVI)

Since March 2005, the following States and organizations have provided information in accordance with the Registration Convention and General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI):

- China (ST/SG/SER.E/475) (to be issued)
- France (ST/SG/SER.E/468)
- India (ST/SG/SER.E/474)
- Japan (ST/SG/SER.E/471)
- Malaysia (ST/SG/SER.E/478)
- Russian Federation (ST/SG/SER.E/470, 473 & 476) and (477 & 479) (to be issued)
- USA (ST/SG/SER.E/469, 472 & 481) (to be issued)
- European Space Agency (ST/SG/SER.E/480 (to be issued))

The following State has notified the United Nations of the establishment of its National Registry:

- China (ST/SG/SER.E/INF.17)

Status of the United Nations Treaties on 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	11/5

UN Reference Information

The full texts of the following documents are available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs:

- General Assembly resolutions (1958 to present)
- United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space
- Unedited transcripts of the Legal Subcommittee (2000-2004)
- Notifications from States and organizations of objects launched into outer space (from 1976 to present)

Reports of the Legal Subcommittee

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
2005	44th session	A/AC.105/850
2004	43rd session	A/AC.105/826
2003	42nd session	A/AC.105/805
2002	41st session	A/AC.105/787
2001	40th session	A/AC.105/763

Reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
2005	48th session	A/60/20
2004	47th session	A/59/20
2003	46th session	A/58/20
2002	45th session	A/57/20
2001	44th session	A/56/20

UNISPACE III

	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
UNISPACE III+5 Review Report	A/59/174
UNISPACE III Report (including the Vienna Declaration)	A/CONF.184/6
Report of the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee to UNISPACE III	A/CONF.184/4

Reports of the United Nations Workshops on Space Law

	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Space Law (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil November 2004)	A/AC.105/847
United Nations/Republic of Korea Workshop on Space Law (Daejeon, Republic of Korea November 2003)	A/AC.105/814
United Nations/International Institute of Air and Space Law Workshop on Capacity-Building in Space Law (The Hague, The Netherlands November 2002)	A/AC.105/802

Annual Publications

	<i>Document Symbol Number</i>
Highlights in Space 2004	ST/SPACE/25
United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space	ST/SPACE/11 and Add.1/Rev.2



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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 and technology. Located in Vienna, Austria, OOSA maintains a website at <http://www.unoosa.org>.