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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Sixty-second session  
Vienna, 12–21 June 2019  
Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*  
Use of space technology in the  
United Nations system**

**Cooperation between the United Nations Office for Outer  
Space Affairs and the International Civil Aviation  
Organization**

The present document contains a summary of the recent cooperation activities between the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat (OOSA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

**The series of aerospace symposiums organized by the  
International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations  
Office for Outer Space Affairs**

**(Montreal, Canada, 18–20 March 2015; Abu Dhabi, 15–17 March 2016; and  
Vienna, 29–31 August 2017)**

1. A summary report on the series of symposiums is contained in document [A/AC/1155](#).
2. The main objectives for the series of symposiums were to bring together representatives of the aviation community and the space community at large, including the commercial and private sector, and to explore existing regulatory mechanisms and operational practices in aviation and space transportation. The series of symposiums explored challenges and opportunities related to emerging space activities, in particular potential future space traffic management, in comparison with existing air traffic management. It also looked into the area of protection of systems, assets and infrastructures.
3. This was one of the fundamental strengths of the series of symposiums, namely to provide a cross sectorial platform for innovative approaches and dialogue among the broader aerospace community, including aviation, space activities, and suborbital flights, giving impetus to an enhanced dialogue among all stakeholders involved.
4. This series of symposiums has made efforts to facilitate the strengthening of a dialogue between the two communities and it was agreed that this collaboration should be seen as the first step. Moreover, it was seen that this unique inter-agency

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\* [A/AC.105/L.316](#).



coordination effort between the International Civil Aviation Organization Secretariat and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should be reflected in the second phase of cooperation and in the work of the Space Learning Group of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

5. Government officials, including representatives of regulatory entities of aviation and space activities, educators from national universities and research institutions and representatives of the private sectors as well as associations participated in the series of symposiums as invited moderators, speakers, panellists and participants.

### **The ICAO/OOSA Space Learning Group**

6. Following the series of Aerospace Symposia, it was clear that the regulatory and operational approaches to aviation and space activities were vastly different and highly complex. At the same time, there was little practical interaction between stakeholders between the aviation and space communities.

7. The ICAO/OOSA Space Learning Group (SLG) was established to provide an informal platform for stakeholders in the aviation and space communities to discuss matters of mutual interest, and in particular to understand the regulatory and implications of sub-orbital flights for commercial purposes.

8. The SLG holds regular teleconferences to discuss substantive technical, safety, and operational aspects of the interaction between the use of air space and outer space, as well as on legal and regulatory aspects of such activities. The SLG also provides an opportunity to apprise and update members on the intergovernmental activities and deliberative processes to which ICAO and OOSA serve in secretariat capacities.

### **The 13th Air Navigation Conference**

9. The 13th Air Navigation Conference (ANConf/13), held from 9–19 October 2018 in Montreal, was a formal ICAO meeting that provided provide an opportunity of Member States and stakeholders to work towards ever-evolving global strategies for safety and air navigation planning, development and implementation. The outcome of the Conference was a set of recommendations in key performance areas of the air navigation system, and those recommendations have been approved by the ICAO Council and will be submitted for subsequent endorsement by the ICAO Assembly in 2019.

10. The Conference recognized the importance of continued collaboration between the aviation and space communities and in particular, promulgated Recommendation 5.5/2 on commercial space transport (CST):

*In recognizing the issues related to commercial space transport (CST) operations potentially affecting international civil aviation, including the safe accommodation of CST operations in airspace and the joint use of aerodromes and other aviation infrastructure:*

*That States: a) and industry support ICAO activities in the CST field through the sharing of relevant expertise, b) share guidance material, best practices and national provisions related to commercial space operations through controlled airspace, including risk models and the application of relevant safety management principles;*

*That ICAO: c) coordinate its work related to CST operations with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs; and d) establish a means to facilitate the sharing of information as applicable to the interaction between aviation and commercial space transport.*

## **Collaboration activities between ICAO and OOSA**

11. In order to implement Recommendation 5.5/2, and to forge a stronger working relationship, ICAO and OOSA are currently in the final process to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

12. In addition to noting issues of mutual concern and potential areas of complementary work, the MOU calls on ICAO and OOSA to further inter-organizational cooperation and coordination on activities related to suborbital flights and commercial space transportation through the ICAO/OOSA Space Learning Group or its successor body.

13. With the growth of the number, activities, diversity of new space actors, it is natural for Commercial Space Transportation (CST) to grow as well. It was recognized at ANConf/13 that CST operations will increase in the coming years and that increase will likely impact air operations and the current air navigation system. The close cooperation between ICAO and OOSA on these issues will ensure that the aviation and space communities are well prepared for seamless integration of operations in these two fields.

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