



## Global Space Law Project

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### Context and Background:

The global space sector is witnessing rapid expansion, with more than 80 countries now operating national space programs and many more preparing to engage in space activities, and more than 58 countries actively requesting UNOOSA's support in drafting and implementing national space laws and policies. This surge in new space actors necessitates a unified approach to ensure activities in outer space are conducted responsibly and sustainably. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) plays a central role in promoting the peaceful use of outer space and supporting member states in developing legal and technical frameworks through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

In response to the increasing demand for tailored legal assistance pertaining to national space law and policy, UNOOSA proposes the Global Space Law Project and a dedicated space law and policy Toolkit. This initiative builds on the successful "Space Law for New Space Actors" project (2019-2024) and aims to support countries in developing national legislation and policies aligned with international space law. This project aligns with and implements UNOOSA's mandate, as outlined, amongst other Resolutions, in the Resolution on the Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (A/RES/72/78), which requests that UNOOSA *"continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to **continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation, in conformity with international space law.**"*

### Objective of the Project:

The main objective of the Global Space Law Project is to develop and roll out a comprehensive toolkit that will serve as a baseline resource for national regulatory authorities. This toolkit will assist countries in developing and aligning their space policies and legislation with the international normative framework, promoting responsible and sustainable space activities. The toolkit will be based on the collection of data expert regulatory events, and tailored legal and policy assistance missions will accompany the toolkit to continue enabling and assisting countries in drafting and implementing national space laws and policies.

### Activities to be Conducted:

**The project will focus on four main components:**

#### **1. Toolkit Development:**

- Create a comprehensive toolkit that provides a clear baseline for national space law and policy development. It will include best practices regarding the national implementation of the key principles of a national space law, as well as novel areas such as space traffic management, space resources, and space tourism.
- Translate the toolkit into multiple languages (starting with Spanish and French) to ensure accessibility across different regions.

#### **2. Expert Regulatory Events:**



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- Organize international and regional events (including in Nairobi, Bangkok, and Vienna) to collect country-specific practices from national regulators, discuss emerging challenges, and enrich the toolkit's content.
- Convene international conferences and workshops to promote the toolkit and foster collaboration among space stakeholders.

### 3. Tailored Legal and Policy Assistance:

- Conduct legal advisory missions to support countries after they have worked with the dedicated toolkit, in finalising the drafting, revision and implementation of their national space laws and policies.
- Provide a dedicated legal service to facilitate a cross-governmental approach and provide for the often-needed political push during the final steps of a draft national space law and/or policy.
- Provide targeted mentoring based on individual country priorities, including industry incentives, legal aspects surrounding the establishment of spaceports, space traffic management, space resources, and lunar activities.

### 4. International Cooperation:

- Engage with countries that are not currently members of COPUOS to encourage their participation in the international space governance framework.
- Establish regional champions to lead efforts in their respective areas and ensure that the best practices and knowledge are widely shared.

### Expected Results:

By the end of the project, participating countries will benefit from:

- **Enhanced Capacity:** Improved ability to draft and implement national space laws and policies in alignment with international frameworks, fostering the **sustainable** and responsible use of outer space.
- **Increased Awareness and Adherence:** Greater global understanding of and adherence to the international treaties, principles, and guidelines governing space activities.
- **Strengthened International Collaboration:** Stronger cooperation among member states, regional organizations, and at COPUOS in promoting the peaceful, sustainable, and safe use of outer space.
- **Tailored National Support:** Tailor-made legal and policy assistance that reflects country-specific needs and priorities.

### Strategic Benefits for Participating Countries:

Participation in the Global Space Law Project offers strategic advantages for countries, including those with both established and emerging space programmes:

- **Sharing National Practices:** Actively contribute to and shape the global space governance landscape by sharing national practices and experiences. These contributions will be reflected in the toolkit, showcasing best practices and innovative approaches to space law and policy. Additionally, donor countries can support the delivery of tailor-made national legal advisory



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services, enhancing the capacity of other states to develop responsible and sustainable space activities. This collaborative effort not only benefits emerging space nations but also strengthens the overall international framework for space activities.

- **Promoting Safe and Sustainable Space Activities:** By supporting the project, countries help enhance the safe and sustainable use of outer space, ensuring that space activities are conducted in line with international norms, standards and practices.
- **Advancing Peaceful Uses of Space:** Reinforce international efforts to maintain space as a domain for peaceful activities. Participation ensures that countries uphold the principles of the Outer Space Treaty (OST), specifically promoting the responsible use of space for the benefit of all humanity.
- **Ensuring Compliance with International Obligations:** Support efforts to strengthen national frameworks for space activities, helping states fulfil their obligations under international treaties, including Article VI of the OST, which requires authorization and supervision of national space activities.

### Project Budget:

The estimated budget for the project over three years is approximately USD 1.9 million. This budget includes:

- **Personnel Costs:** Approximately USD 1.1 million for a project team, including programme manager, support officer and administrative staff.
- **Non-Personnel Cost (toolkit development, maintenance of ASTRO and e-learning):** Around USD 250,000 for toolkit development, translation, and outreach materials.
- **Implementation of activities (participant travel, venue costs and other peripherals):** An estimated USD 400,000 for organizing expert regulatory events, tailor-made legal advisory missions, and capacity-building activities.
- **UN Programme Support Costs (13%):** USD 227,500.

### Conclusion:

The Global Space Law Project is a vital initiative that addresses the growing need for national space laws and policies around the Globe. By providing a comprehensive toolkit and targeted legal assistance, the project will empower countries to navigate the complexities of space law, fostering responsible and sustainable space activities worldwide. It will strengthen international cooperation, promote global adherence to international space law, and ensure that exploration and the use of outer space are done safely, responsibly sustainably and above all for peaceful purposes. Through this project, UNOOSA and its partners will continue to play a leading role in shaping the future of space governance.