

United Kingdom, Item 8

Capacity building in space law

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As more nations seek to develop their space capabilities, they can face challenges in developing the legal and regulatory frameworks for space activities. This is why the UK believes that capacity building in space law is important by sharing our experiences and providing access to training and capacity building events.

In December 2022, the UK attended the African Technical Advisory Mission, co-organised by the Luxembourg Space Agency and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. The UK was excited to be a part of this exercise with the UK Civil Aviation Authority sharing its experience and insights on the licensing, regulation and registration of large constellations.

Madam Chair,

The UK attaches great importance to the registration of space objects and its commitments under the Registration Convention. There are clear benefits to creating a cohesive international approach to the registration of space objects.

The UK has therefore considered how it can help support with capacity building for registration. The UK considers that potential areas of interest could be how to incorporate registration obligations into domestic legislation, the registration filing process and collaborating with other countries on joint launches.

With UNOOSA's key role in maintaining the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and their upcoming work to modernise the register, the UK seeks to complement this work by funding the UK/UNOOSA Registration project this year.

The output of this will be an anonymised stakeholder study report which will showcase good practice for registration alongside current and future challenges. This will be created from an interview series with countries. We hope that this report will prove to be a helpful resource for assisting countries in improving registration practices and learning from the approaches of other countries.

The first phase of this project will also include a registration expert event to bring together industry, regulators, policy makers and space agencies to discuss registration. This will be a 2-day event on the 29th and 30th May 2023, directly before the COPUOS plenary. At the event, there will

be a presentation on the preliminary findings of the stakeholder study report, discussions on national practices and procedures for registering space objects and consideration of current and future challenges to registration. We see this event as a great opportunity to find solutions to the challenges of registration and share experiences from established and emerging space states. In this regard, we would like to give delegates a 'heads-up' that UNOOSA have sent out invites for this event to Mission representatives.

Madam Chair,

The UK will continue to play a proactive role in capacity building in space law and is open to discussing our experiences further with member states, with our recent experience of creating and now implementing our national legislation on space activities.

Thank you Madam Chair.