NON-PAPER

Second revised draft recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation

Non-Paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space

Introduction

1. Reflecting the discussions of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, the following second revised draft recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation are proposed for the consideration by the Working Group at its next informal meeting (Monday 27 March 2023, 13:30–14:50, Board Room D, 4th Floor, C Building, VIC/MS Teams).

2. Provided that the draft recommendations find agreement by the Working Group, they shall be included in the Working Group report and accompanied by introductory paragraphs recalling, inter alia, the importance of achieving the most complete registration of space objects in accordance with applicable international law and as recommended by General Assembly resolution 62/101, entitled “Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects”, as well as Guideline A.5 of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II). Referring to the background paper by the Secretariat entitled “Registration of large constellations and megaconstellations” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.322), challenges associated with the registration of space objects forming part of a satellite constellation as well the desire to promote the most efficient distribution by the Office of submissions of registration information on space objects including those forming part of satellite constellations may also be mentioned.

Draft recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation

(a) When submitting registration information on a space object forming part of a satellite constellation, special consideration should be given to the implementation of the recommendations by the General Assembly contained in its resolution 62/101, entitled “Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects”;
(b) When submitting registration information on a space object forming part of a satellite constellation, consideration should be given to furnishing additional information, including, but not limited to:

i. Information on the owner and operator, including any contact details, to the extent practicable and feasible;

ii. Web links to official information, such as, for example, web links to the national space objects registries;

iii. Contact details of designated focal points for national space object registries;

(c) Without prejudice to the formal submission of registration information on a space object forming part of a satellite constellation, and in order to promote the availability of registration information during the period of time between the submission of registration information to the United Nations Secretary-General and its distribution by the Office, appropriate means to make available additional updated information concerning a space object forming part of a satellite constellation could be considered.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the above recommendations, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is requested to consider the efficient processing of registration information submissions on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation in its ongoing process of developing an online registration portal. The model registration form made available by the Office pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 62/101 may serve the furnishing of additional information on registered space objects including those forming part of satellite constellations.