

UN/IAF WORKSHOP 2024 ON SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS: "SPACE SUSTAINABILITY AS A GAME-CHANGER FOR DEVELOPMENT"

Panel 2 : Legal best practices for space sustainability

Andrew Ratcliffe, Chief Engineer, UKSA | 11th October 2024

Our Role:

Catalysing investment into the UK space sector.

Delivering space capabilities and missions that benefit society.

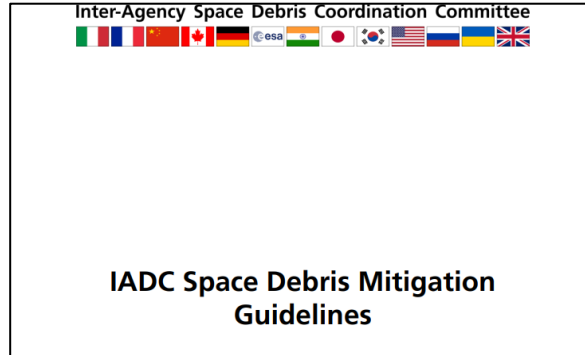
Championing the power of space to improve lives.

UK National Regulatory Approach

Best Practice

UK legislation requires that the regulator takes into account any space debris mitigation guidelines issued by an international organisation in which the government of the United Kingdom is represented:

- IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines
- ISO 24113:2023
- Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities
- ...



Non-binding / Norms,
Best Practice, Policy



Binding / Treaties

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE

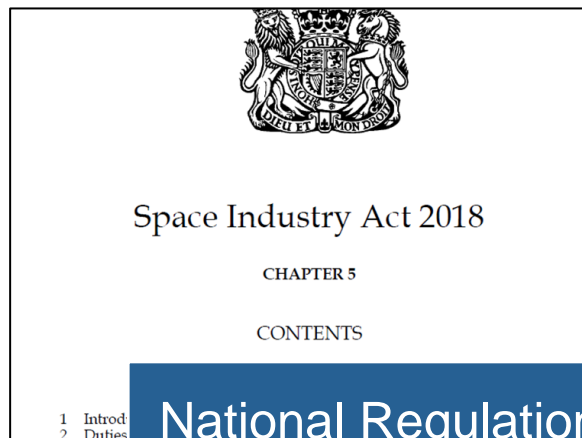
Article VI : The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space...shall require **authorization and continuing supervision**

Article VII : State Party from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally **liable for damage** to another State Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the Earth, in air or in outer space

...

UK is developing new regulatory frameworks for novel mission types, including active debris removal, and incentivisation mechanisms (variable liability) for sustainability

UK has experience of regulating new novel technologies, including large constellations and novel in-orbit demonstration missions



National Regulation

UK views regulation as a key enabler for space activities

UK's legislative framework is outcome-focussed – can cater for a wide range of mission types and innovative approaches

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)

- Who : 13 member organisations (IADC founded in '93 and BNSC joined in '96), where members are :
 - Space agencies, authorized governmental or inter-governmental entities which are carrying out space activities (manufacturing, launching and operating spacecraft or manufacturing and launching rockets)
 - Actively undertaking space debris research activities and contribute to an increased understanding of space debris issues and participate actively in working group action items and internal tasks.
- Status : New Associate Member introduced in Q2 '24 – see Terms of Reference and contact iadc-secretariat@dlr.de
- Purpose :
 1. Exchange information on space debris research and facilitate opportunities for cooperation
 2. Review the progress of ongoing cooperative activities
 3. Identify debris mitigation options
- Organisation :
 - Steering Group and 4 Working Groups across different disciplines
 - Annual meeting hosted by the Chair and inter-sessional meetings of SG, including at IAC, and by WG's throughout the year to coordinate activities

