

26 March 2009

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Forty-eighth session
23 March-3 April 2009
Item 6 (a) of the agenda*
The definition and delimitation of outer space**

Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its forty-seventh session, in 2008, the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed to continue to address to Member States the following questions:

(a) Does your Government consider it necessary to define outer space and/or to delimit air space and outer space, given the current level of space and aviation activities and technological development in space and aviation technologies? Please provide a justification for the answer; or

(b) Does your Government consider another approach to solving this issue? Please provide a justification for the answer A/AC105/891, Annex II, para. 16 (f).

2. The submissions of Qatar and Saudi Arabia which are represented in the present document, will be published by the Secretariat in all official languages of the United Nations in document A/AC.105/889/Add.5.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.274.



Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

The Government of the State of Qatar believes that it is necessary to define airspace and to delimit airspace and outer space, as to do so would help to determine State responsibility, clarify the concept of national sovereignty and prevent any ambiguity in relevant international laws and conventions. It would also achieve the principle of the equality of States under international law.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia grants the importance of the subject but does not consider it necessary to define outer space or to delimit airspace and outer space at the present time.
 2. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that this subject should remain under the close oversight and consideration of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It affirms the need to make a distinction between outer space and airspace with a view to limiting the outbreak of inter-State conflicts.
 3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that every State has the right of complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory, in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944 (Chicago Convention). It also believes that no State may claim the right to appropriate any part of outer space, the planets or celestial bodies.
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