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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
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Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Review of international mechanisms for cooperation
in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

**Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the
peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

Note by the Secretariat

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* A/AC.105/C.2/L.295.



I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-third session, in 2014, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should, in accordance with the workplan for 2015 (A/AC.105/1003, para. 179), again be invited to provide examples and information on the mechanisms for international cooperation they utilized for space cooperation. States members of the Committee and permanent observers of the Committee were encouraged to refer to the set of questions agreed by the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, for guidance on their contribution to the work of the Working Group (A/AC.105/1067, annex III, paras. 9 and 10).

2. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of a reply received from Austria.

II. Replies received from States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Austria

[Original: English]
[3 April 2015]

1. *What is the main area of your cooperation (e.g., space exploration, scientific research, testing, education and personnel training, global navigation, disaster management through remote sensing, commercial launch services, etc.)?*

Austria sets its priorities in the topics of Earth observation and climate research, telecom and technology development taking into account also the space activities of EU and EUMETSAT, as well as the leverage effect with regard to the commercial market.

Austria also plays a significant role in space science through its participation in ESA's mandatory programme.

2. *Is this multilateral or bilateral cooperation (e.g., intergovernmental cooperation, interagency cooperation, cooperation between non-governmental entities, mixed cooperation, etc.)?*

Austria's international cooperation in the area of space activities takes place primarily through participation in European programmes, especially ESA programmes, through which cooperation is possible worldwide:

Austria invests about 85 per cent of its national funding through ESA programmes, thus multilateral cooperation. The possibility of different contributions to ESA optional programmes constitutes a major advantage in implementing national

priorities at international level. Financial returns from ESA programmes have developed very positively in recent years.

In addition, cooperation at intergovernmental level is possible, in particular in the area of transnational applications with Austrian neighbouring countries based on shared conditions such as, for example, cooperation in the Alps. Also bilateral cooperation based, for instance, on common scientific interests with international partners is possible.

As such, the Aeronautics and Space Agency of FFG has signed Cooperation Agreements with the following Agencies concerning concrete missions, with the French Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) (Corot and Pleiades), the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission MMS), the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) (BEPICOLOMBO). Recently FFG signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DLR, the German Centre for Aeronautics and Space. This MoU strengthens cooperative undertakings of Austria on a broader scale with these space-related institution and leads to benefits for both parties.

3. *What is the duration of the cooperation?*

Activities in space research had led Austria's way into space. Austria's further development of space activities quickly led to an approach to ESA with a full membership in 1987. In principle the duration of the cooperation is not limited.

Since 2002 bilateral and transnational projects are possible thanks to financing of a national space programme, ASAP Austrian space and applications programme.

4. *Does a national space agency play a key role in the cooperation?*

The Austrian Aeronautics and Space Agency plays a key role in cooperation both at the international and at bilateral/multilateral level: At ESA, Austria is represented in several committees and programme boards by staff of the national space agency. Austria is represented by staff of the national space agency also in space related committees and expert groups of the European Commission and EUMETSAT.

Overall, the Austrian Aeronautics and Space Agency implements the strategy of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. This Austrian Space Strategy was formulated in 2012.

5. *Does a national authority or institution other than a space agency play an important role in the cooperation (e.g., a scientific institution, meteorological agency, development or financial assistance authority, etc.)?*

The following institutions play a role according to their responsibilities:

- European Space Policy Institute — www.espi.or.at/
- Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik — www.zamg.ac.at/cms/en/news
- Environment Agency Austria — www.umweltbundesamt.at/en/
- Austrian Academy of Sciences — www.oeaw.ac.at
- Austrospace: Association of Austrian Space Industries — www.austrospace.at/

For a complete overview of Austrian industries and university and science institutes active in space please refer to www.spacetechnology.at/.

6. *Are private companies or industries directly involved in the cooperation?*

Austrian private companies and industries are involved through participation in numerous multilateral and bilateral projects. The majority of these projects are part of ESA programmes; Austrian private companies and industries also take part in programmes of the EU (Horizon 2020) and other multilateral/bilateral undertakings.

7. *Is the cooperation conducted within the framework of:*

- (a) *The United Nations and its specialized agencies;***
- (b) *Independent intergovernmental organizations; regional or interregional space cooperation organizations or mechanisms;***
- (c) *Non-governmental organizations;***
- (d) *Other types of forums?***

Austria invests about 85 per cent of its national funding through ESA programmes, thus the cooperation is conducted mostly within the framework of (b) Independent intergovernmental organizations; regional or interregional space cooperation organizations or mechanisms.

8. *Is the cooperative mechanism multilateral or bilateral?*

See above. The cooperation is mostly multilateral.

9. *Is the cooperative mechanism:*

- (a) *A legally binding agreement;***
- (b) *A non-legally binding arrangement (if so what kind of arrangement);***
- (c) *A combination of both?***

Austria's international cooperation takes place primarily through participation in European programmes, especially ESA programmes, though mostly (a) within legally binding agreements. If the cooperation is based on bilateral basis it is based on memoranda of understanding.

10. *Is the cooperative mechanism constituted by a framework agreement, either multilateral or bilateral, and is it accompanied by an implementing agreement or arrangement and/or a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation and coordination within the cooperation?*

See below.

11. *What kinds of provisions do the legally binding agreement and/or non-legally binding arrangement contain?*

Projects within ESA Programmes: Austrian subscribes to specific programme declarations in the case of optional ESA Programmes. The Science Programme within ESA is mandatory. For both programmes detailed Implementing rules are defining financial and legal provisions.

Bilateral projects are based on a no exchange of funds basis.

12. *Is it clearly provided for in the legally binding agreement or non-legally binding arrangement that the operation of the project shall be conducted in accordance with the United Nations treaties on outer space and in consideration of principles on outer space and related General Assembly resolutions (resolutions on the concept of the launching State, registration practice, national legislation, etc.)?*

N.A.
