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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE

Legal Sub-Committee

FRANCE: PROPOSAL

DRAFT CONVENTION CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS
LAUNCHED INTO SPACE FOR THE EXPLORATION OR USE OF
OUTER SPACE

The Governments signatories of this Convention,

Considering that the registration or entry in a register of objects launched into outer space is mentioned in several provisions of the Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies,

Considering the advantages, at the international level, of the establishment of common rules governing the registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space,

Have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1

Any object launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space shall be registered by entry in a register kept by a service under the supervision of one or more Governments Parties to this Convention. Each Government shall inform the Depositary Government of the establishment or termination of the services under its supervision.

There shall be only one registration of each object, but the registration may be transferred from one service to another.

Article 2

Each Contracting Party, acting separately or, in the case of a joint service, together with the other Contracting Parties exercising supervision over that service, shall determine the rules of law applicable to registration.

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However, the entry in the register concerning each object shall include at least:

- (a) the registration number;
- (b) where applicable, the name of the object;
- (c) the name and address of the governmental or inter-governmental agency or non-governmental entity procuring the launching;
- (d) the external specifications of the object, such as total weight, shape, dimensions and external component parts;
- (e) the law applicable to the object and to the persons carried in it when an inter-governmental agency or a group of natural or juridical persons, referred to in sub-paragraph (c) hereof, procures the launching.

Each Contracting Party undertakes to provide any other Contracting Party with any information requested by the latter regarding the particulars referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (c) of the preceding paragraph concerning any object registered by a service under its supervision, whether such supervision is exclusive or shared with other Governments.

The registers of services functioning in the territory of any State whose Government is a party to this Convention shall so far as possible be accessible to the public.

Article 3

The registration number shall be composed of:

- (a) the letter C, followed by a dash;
- (b) the mark of the registration service, chosen from among the symbols assigned by international telecommunications regulations as identifying radio call signals to the State or States exercising supervision over the service which keeps the register. This mark shall be followed by a dash;
- (c) the registration mark, consisting of roman capital letters, arabic numerals or a combination of such letters and numerals. This mark must be clearly distinguishable from those reserved for aircraft or for distress or emergency signals.

This number shall be displayed in at least two places on the object and on opposite sides thereof, if the size of the object permits. It shall be repeated as frequently as possible in order to permit identification, in case of accident, of portions or component parts of the object. The height of the characters shall be determined by technical considerations. The number shall be shown on at least one identification plate inside the object. The processes and materials used for reproduction of the registration number and manufacture of the identification plate shall be such, having regard to the conditions in which the object will be used, as to provide the best possible guarantee that the registration number will be identifiable as speedily as possible if the object or its component parts are found.

Article 4

At [two year] intervals, on the proposal of the Government Depository of this Convention, a Conference shall be convened in order to consider in the light, inter alia, of scientific and technical advances, measures which could be adopted with regard to the questions dealt with in articles 2 and 3 of this Convention.

At such a conference, it may be decided by unanimous vote of the Contracting Parties represented and voting that the said common rules may at subsequent Conferences be adopted by a [two-thirds] majority of the Contracting Parties represented and voting and be binding upon all the Contracting Parties.

The first Conference shall take place in the third year after the date of entry into force of this Convention.

Article 5

Any Contracting Party may propose amendments to this Convention.

For this purpose, it shall transmit the text of the amendment to the Depository Government, which shall communicate it to all the other Governments Parties. If at least one-third of the latter state that they consider it necessary to discuss the proposal, a review conference shall be convened as soon as possible on the proposal of the Depository Government.

Amendments adopted by the majority of the Contracting Parties represented and voting shall enter into force for the Governments [ratifying,] approving [or accepting] them [one] month[s] after one-half of the Contracting Parties, at the date of adoption of the amendment by the Conference, have deposited [the instrument of ratification or] the notification of approval [or acceptance] concerning them with the Government Depository of this Convention. They shall enter into force for any other Government [one] month[s] after that Government has deposited the relevant instrument or notification.

If, after the Depository Government has informed the other Governments Parties to this Convention of the text of a proposed amendment, at least two-thirds of the Contracting Parties intimate that the amendment can be adopted without the convening of a review conference, the said amendment shall enter into force, for those Contracting Parties, [one] month[s] after the last reply from one of them has reached the Depository Government. The amendment shall enter into force for any other Contracting Party [one] month[s] after its reply has reached the Depository Government.

Article 6

No reservation may be made in respect of this Convention.

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(followed by the formal provisions)

