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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Fifty-sixth session  
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013

**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its  
fifty-second session, held in Vienna  
from 8 to 19 April 2013**

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	3
A. Opening of the session . . . . .	3
B. Adoption of the agenda . . . . .	3
C. Attendance . . . . .	4
D. Symposium . . . . .	5
E. Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee . . . . .	5
II. General exchange of views . . . . .	5
III. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space . . . . .	7
IV. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law . . . . .	10
V. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union . . . . .	11
VI. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space . . . . .	14
VII. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space . . . . .	15



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VIII.	Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets . . . . .	17
IX.	Capacity-building in space law . . . . .	18
X.	General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee . . . . .	20
XI.	Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space . . . . .	23
XII.	Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session. . . . .	25
A.	Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session. . . . .	26
B.	Organizational matters . . . . .	29
Annexes		
I.	Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. . . . .	30
II.	Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space . . . . .	33
III.	Set of recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, for submission as a separate draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session . . . . .	35

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Opening of the session**

1. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-second session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 8 to 19 April 2013 under the chairmanship of Tare Charles Brisibe (Nigeria).
2. The Subcommittee held 19 meetings.

### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

3. At its 859th meeting, on 8 April, the Subcommittee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Statement by the Chair.
  3. General exchange of views.
  4. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
  5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
  6. Matters relating to:
    - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
    - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
  7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
  8. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
  9. Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets.
  10. Capacity-building in space law.
  11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
  12. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
  13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session.

### C. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following 59 States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

5. The Subcommittee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel, Luxembourg and the United Arab Emirates to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

6. The Subcommittee also decided to invite the observer for the European Union, at its request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. The International Telecommunication Union attended the session as an observer.

8. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, European Space Agency, European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, International Mobile Satellite Organization, International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States. The observer for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) also attended the session.

9. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: European Space Policy Institute, Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, International Institute of Space Law, International Law Association and Space Generation Advisory Council.

10. The Subcommittee had before it information concerning the applications of Ghana (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.3) and Belarus (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.25) for membership in the Committee.

11. The Subcommittee also had before it information concerning the request of the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology for observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.4).

12. A list of the representatives of States, United Nations entities and other international organizations attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2013/INF/45.

#### **D. Symposium**

13. On 8 April, the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) held a symposium on the theme “The Unidroit Space Protocol”, which was co-chaired by Tanja Masson-Zwaan of IISL and Sergio Marchisio of ECSL. A welcome statement was made by the Chair of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations during the symposium: “The way to the successful completion of the negotiations”, by Martin Stanford; “The negotiations at Berlin: what promise for the future?”, by Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd and Stephan Hobe; “The perspective from emerging spacefaring nations”, by Patrick Phetole Sekhula; and “A look ahead”, by Tanja Masson-Zwaan on behalf of Chris Johnson. Concluding remarks were made by the co-chairs of the symposium and the Chair of the Subcommittee. The papers and presentations delivered during the symposium were made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat ([www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/COPUOS/Legal/2013/symposium.html](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/COPUOS/Legal/2013/symposium.html)).

14. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that the symposium had constituted a valuable contribution to its work.

#### **E. Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee**

15. At its 877th meeting, on 19 April, the Subcommittee adopted the present report and concluded the work of its fifty-second session.

### **II. General exchange of views**

16. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. A statement was made by Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

17. At the 859th meeting, on 8 April, the Chair made a statement in which he highlighted the main agenda items before the Subcommittee at its current session and its programme of work.

18. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement in which she reviewed the role of the Office in discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space, including the maintenance of the Register of Objects

Launched into Outer Space, as well as the role and work of the Office relating to capacity-building in space law.

19. The Subcommittee noted the observance, on 12 April, of the International Day of Human Space Flight, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/271, which commemorated the first space flight, by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, and the commemoration, in 2013, of the first space flight by a woman, cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. In that regard, the Subcommittee noted with satisfaction the publication by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of an online autograph album entitled *Messages from Space Explorers to Future Generations*, which was available on its website ([www.unoosa.org](http://www.unoosa.org)).

20. The Subcommittee noted a number of developments in member States' conduct of space activities and implementation of national space legislation, the importance of international and regional cooperation in that area and the broad commitment to carrying out activities in outer space for peaceful purposes and in accordance with the international legal regime on outer space, to ensure its long-term sustainability for the benefit of humankind.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that the existing international legal framework governing outer space activities enabled States to benefit from activities conducted in outer space, and that it was essential to continue to seek universal adherence to and application of the United Nations treaties on outer space.

22. Some delegations reiterated the importance of the existing treaties on outer space and emphasized the following principles: equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space and equal conditions for all States, irrespective of their level of scientific and technical development, as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; non-militarization of outer space and its exploitation strictly for peaceful purposes; and regional cooperation to promote space activities.

23. Some delegations reiterated the importance of further development of the international legal regime based on the existing treaties and principles to ensure greater transparency and confidence-building in the conduct of space activities, in a manner that allowed all nations to benefit from space activities, taking into particular account the interests of developing countries.

24. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should be actively involved in the development of new guidelines to ensure the safety, security and predictability of outer space activities, with the aim of limiting or minimizing harmful interference in outer space.

25. Some delegations reiterated the importance of maintaining the long-term sustainability, safety, stability and security of space by establishing guidelines for its transparent and responsible use, and welcomed initiatives that further contributed to the development of international space law, including the draft international code of conduct for outer space activities.

26. Some delegations expressed the view that it was crucial to have closer cooperation and coordination of work between the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to better address the legal aspects of scientific and technological developments, and with a view to promoting the

development of binding international norms addressing critical issues such as space debris and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

27. Some delegations expressed concern about an arms race in outer space and noted that current gaps in the legal regime on outer space made it necessary to have a more comprehensive legal regime to prevent the militarization of outer space.

28. Some delegations expressed the view that the placement of conventional weapons in outer space was not sufficiently prohibited by the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and that it was imperative to adopt adequate and efficient measures to prevent any possibility of an arms race in outer space.

29. The view was expressed that ensuring the safety and security of outer space necessitated a more constructive dialogue between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Conference on Disarmament.

30. The view was expressed that the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee had an extraordinary record in advancing the field of space law and developing space law in a manner that promoted, rather than hindered, the exploration and use of outer space and that such success was a result of the ability of the Subcommittee to focus on practical problems and to address such problems through a consensus-based, results-oriented process.

31. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the delegation of Germany for having presented volume II of the *Cologne Commentary on Space Law* to delegations at the present session of the Subcommittee, as a contribution to capacity-building in space law. Together with volume I, which had been presented in 2010, it constituted a complete, article-by-article commentary on all five United Nations treaties on outer space.

### **III. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space**

32. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 4, entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space”, as a regular item on its agenda.

33. The representatives of Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 4. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States and by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

34. At its 859th meeting, on 8 April, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space under the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence (Belgium). At its 875th meeting, on 18 April, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group, contained in annex I to the present report.

35. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents* (ST/SPACE/61);

(b) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2013 (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.5);

(c) Set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.12);

(d) Responses received from Germany and Kazakhstan to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.13);

(e) Response received from Austria to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.18).

36. The Subcommittee noted that, as at 1 January 2013, the status of the five United Nations treaties on outer space was as follows:

(a) The Outer Space Treaty had 102 States parties and had been signed by 26 additional States;

(b) The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space had 92 States parties and had been signed by 24 additional States; two international intergovernmental organizations had declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations established under the Agreement;

(c) The Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects had 89 States parties and had been signed by 22 additional States; three international intergovernmental organizations had declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations established under the Convention;

(d) The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space had 59 States parties and had been signed by 4 additional States; two international intergovernmental organizations had declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations established under the Convention;

(e) The Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies had 15 States parties and had been signed by 4 additional States.

37. The Subcommittee welcomed the fact that Lithuania had become a party to the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention on 25 March 2013.

38. The Subcommittee welcomed reports from Member States regarding their progress towards becoming parties to the five United Nations treaties on outer space, in developing national space laws and in concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements on space cooperation.

39. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations treaties on outer space represented a solid legal structure that was crucial for supporting the

increasing scale of space activities and strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Those delegations welcomed further adherence to the treaties and urged those States that had not yet become parties to the treaties to consider doing so.

40. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to review, update and strengthen the five United Nations treaties on outer space with a view to invigorating the guiding principles that govern the space activities of States, strengthening international cooperation and making space technology available to all people. Those delegations were of the view that such reviewing and updating should not undermine the fundamental principles underlying the existing legal regime, but should enrich and further develop those principles.

41. Some delegations expressed the view that the five United Nations treaties on outer space were a basis for the regulation of the participation and the responsibility of both Governments and non-governmental organizations and that they strengthened the safety and security of space activities. Those delegations were of the view that the legal regime governing activities in outer space should ensure that space research and space activities benefit the quality of life and well-being of human beings and the prosperity of current and future generations.

42. Some delegations expressed the view that a universal, comprehensive convention on outer space should be developed with the aim of finding solutions for existing issues, which would allow the international legal regime on outer space to be taken to the next level of its development.

43. Some delegations expressed the view that the States that had already ratified the United Nations treaties on outer space should examine the sufficiency of their national laws for the implementation of the treaties.

44. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee had a pivotal role in the further development of the international legal regime governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, in particular in view of the increased commercialization and heightened pace of outer space activities, and the increased participation of actors conducting activities in outer space.

45. Some delegations expressed the view that in the light of current developments in space activities, specifically regarding commercialization, privatization and space safety, the application of the existing treaties on outer space should be constantly analysed and reviewed to ensure the relevance of the current space law regime to the level of development in space activities.

46. The view was expressed that there was a need to identify barriers in implementing the provisions of the treaties and that the exchange of best practices and the provision of technical assistance could further improve the implementation of the treaties by States parties.

47. The view was expressed that the objective of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes required the updating of international law to explicitly prohibit the use of any weapons in outer space.

48. The view was expressed that the success of the Subcommittee in advancing the field of space law was a result of its ability to focus on practical problems and to seek to address any such problems via a consensus-based and results-oriented

process. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the Subcommittee should, during its deliberations, aim to continue that tradition and to avoid focusing on theoretical rather than practical issues.

49. The view was expressed that the issue of in-orbit transfers of ownership of space objects was of great importance and that it would be beneficial to have an expanded discussion on that topic at future sessions of the Subcommittee.

50. The view was expressed that the Moon Agreement, in all its aspects, should continue to be discussed by the Subcommittee in order for its provisions to be further clarified and understood.

#### **IV. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law**

51. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 5, entitled “Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law”, as a regular item on its agenda.

52. Under agenda item 5, statements were made by the observers for the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the European Space Agency (ESA) together with ECSL, the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, IISL, the International Law Association (ILA), Intersputnik and the Space Generation Advisory Council.

53. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing information on activities relating to space law received from the Secure World Foundation and ILA (A/AC.105/C.2/103);

(b) Conference room paper containing information on activities relating to space law received from ILA (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.6);

(c) Conference room paper containing information on activities relating to space law received from ECSL and IISL (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.19 and Add.1);

(d) Conference room paper containing information on activities relating to space law received from Intersputnik (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.21).

54. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law had continued to contribute significantly to the study, clarification and development of space law and that those organizations had continued to organize numerous conferences and symposiums, prepare publications and reports and organize training seminars for practitioners and students, all of which were intended to broaden and advance knowledge of space law.

55. The Subcommittee noted that international intergovernmental organizations had an important role to play in the development, strengthening and furtherance of understanding of international space law.

56. The Subcommittee welcomed the information provided by the observer for Intersputnik on the activities of Intersputnik relating to space law, including international cooperation in the form of joint satellite projects, contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.21.

57. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that APSCO would host the Space Law and Policy Forum in Beijing from 26 to 28 June 2013.

58. The Subcommittee welcomed the information provided by the observer for ILA on the Sofia Guidelines for a Model Law on National Space Legislation, adopted by the 75th ILA Conference, held on 30 August 2012. The Subcommittee also noted that the Sofia Guidelines had been made available in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.6.

59. The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue the exchange of information on recent developments in the area of space law between the Subcommittee and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that such organizations should again be invited to report to the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session on their activities relating to space law.

## **V. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union**

60. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 6, entitled “Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union”, as a regular item on its agenda.

61. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Ukraine, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 6. A statement was also made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

62. At its 859th meeting, on 8 April, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space under the chairmanship of José Monserrat Filho (Brazil). In accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session and endorsed by the Committee at its forty-third session, the Working Group was convened to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

63. The Working Group held three meetings. The Subcommittee, at its 875th meeting, on 18 April, endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group, contained in annex II to the present report.

64. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat entitled “National legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space” (A/AC.105/865/Add.12-13);

(b) Note by the Secretariat entitled “Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: replies from Member States” (A/AC.105/889/Add.11-12);

(c) Note by the Secretariat entitled “Questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation” (A/AC.105/1039 and Add.1);

(d) Conference room paper entitled “Summary of information on national practices and legislation of States with regard to the definition and delimitation of outer space” (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.8);

(e) Conference room paper entitled “Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: reply of Pakistan” (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.16).

65. The Subcommittee welcomed the establishment of a web page, on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, containing a list of the documentation for the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and the preparation of conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.8. The Subcommittee recommended enhancing that conference room paper by arranging the information contained in it by country, and listing countries in alphabetical order. The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to prepare an updated document for consideration at its fifty-third session, to be held in 2014.

66. Some delegations expressed the view that scientific and technological progress, the commercialization of outer space, the participation of the private sector, emerging legal questions and the increasing use of outer space in general had made it necessary for the Subcommittee to consider the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space.

67. Some delegations expressed the view that the lack of a definition or delimitation of outer space created legal uncertainty concerning the applicability of space law and air law and that matters concerning State sovereignty and the boundary between airspace and outer space needed to be clarified in order to reduce the possibility of disputes among States.

68. Some delegations expressed the view that the definition and delimitation of outer space was important in relation to the issue of the liability of States and other entities engaging in space activities. That issue had become particularly topical in the light of the current intensification and diversification of space activities.

69. Some delegations expressed the view that States should continue to operate under the current framework, which presented no practical difficulties, until such time as there was a demonstrated need and a practical basis for developing a definition or delimitation of outer space.

70. Some delegations expressed the view that it would be preferable to focus on the function and purpose of an object rather than on its location in order to determine if and when space law would govern its activities.
71. The view was expressed that a mixed approach, based on combining functional and conceptual approaches to the delimitation of outer space, should be employed in order to achieve further progress on the matter.
72. The view was expressed that the physically intangible and imprecise environment of outer space made it difficult to practically define its geographical limits. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the elaboration of a set of principles or guidelines for the launching and operation of aerospace objects could contribute to meeting the present requirements of clarity and legal security in that field.
73. The view was expressed that even minimal consensus on the issue would facilitate discussion in other international forums, such as the Conference on Disarmament.
74. The view was expressed that the diversity of views of States on the matter of the definition and delimitation of outer space made it difficult to develop a position that would be satisfactory to all and that it was therefore necessary to retain the item on the agenda and analyse it, with a view to reaching a consensus so that, in the future, States might have legal instruments that would provide certainty with regard to sovereignty in airspace while guaranteeing the freedom to access outer space.
75. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation — must be used rationally and should be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would provide States with the possibility of having access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries, as well as the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.
76. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was part of outer space, that it was not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means, including by means of use or repeated use, and that its utilization was governed by the Outer Space Treaty and ITU treaties.
77. The view was expressed that Member States should seek alternative ways of using the geostationary orbit that were more rational and balanced.
78. Some delegations expressed the view that the utilization by States of the geostationary orbit on the basis of “first come, first served” was unacceptable and that the Subcommittee should therefore develop a legal regime guaranteeing equitable access to orbital positions for States, in accordance with the principles of peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space.
79. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to ensure the sustainability of the geostationary orbit, it was necessary to keep that issue on the agenda of the Subcommittee and to explore it further, through the creation of appropriate working

groups and intergovernmental panels, as necessary. Those delegations were of the view that working groups or intergovernmental panels with technical and legal expertise should be established to promote equal access to the geostationary orbit.

80. The view was expressed that developing countries should be provided with assistance and technical capacity to increase their access to the geostationary orbit, which would boost their socioeconomic development and help alleviate the digital divide.

## **VI. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

81. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 7, entitled “National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”, as a regular item on its agenda.

82. The representatives of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine and the United States made statements under agenda item 7. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

83. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Working paper submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, entitled “Revised text of the draft recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.289);

(b) Conference room paper containing a schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.7).

84. In accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its fifty-fifth session, held in 2012 (see A/67/20, para. 252), the Subcommittee considered the revised draft set of recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.289. The Subcommittee agreed on the text of the set of recommendations, as amended, and recommended that the text be submitted as a separate draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (see annex III).

85. The Subcommittee commended Irmgard Marboe (Austria) for her guidance of the Working Group and her outstanding contribution to the work of the Subcommittee under the agenda item.

86. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its contribution to the success of the Working Group.

87. The Subcommittee noted that States continued to undertake efforts aimed at the development of national space-related regulatory frameworks, in accordance with the United Nations treaties on outer space.

88. The Subcommittee agreed that the general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space provided States with a comprehensive overview of the current status of national

space laws and regulations and assisted States in understanding the different approaches taken at the national level with regard to the development of national space-related regulatory frameworks.

89. The Subcommittee noted, in that regard, that the report of the Working Group on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/C.2/101) played a useful role by assisting States in the development of national space legislation.

90. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction the increasing number of space-related international cooperation programmes and projects. In that connection, the Subcommittee noted the importance of the development of space legislation by States, as national regulatory frameworks played a significant role in regulating and promoting such cooperation activities.

91. The Subcommittee reiterated that it was important to take into account the increased level of commercial and private activities in outer space in the context of developing a national space-related regulatory framework, particularly with respect to the responsibilities of States regarding their national space activities.

92. The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue to exchange information regularly on developments in the area of national space-related regulatory frameworks. In that regard, the Subcommittee encouraged Member States to continue to submit to the Secretariat texts of their national space laws and regulations, as well as to provide updates and inputs to the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities.

93. The Subcommittee noted that on the basis of submissions from Member States referred to in paragraph 92 above, the Secretariat would continue to update its web page containing the database of national space legislation and that future updates to the schematic overview would be published by the Secretariat in electronic form on the same web page. In that connection, the Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to provide it, at its fifty-third session, in 2014, with an updated schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities, including an electronic version for uploading to the above-mentioned web page.

## **VII. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space**

94. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 8, entitled “Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

95. The representatives of Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 8. A statement was also made under the item by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

96. The Legal Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space (A/AC.105/934), adopted by

the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session, in 2009, and endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-second session, in 2009, had considerably advanced international cooperation in ensuring the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space and had facilitated the development of international space law.

97. The Legal Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had prepared a summary of information from the workshops it organized during the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2011 and 2012 (A/AC.105/1038, annex II, appendix).

98. Some delegations expressed the view that it was exclusively States, irrespective of their level of social, economic, scientific or technical development, that had an obligation to engage in regulatory activity associated with the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and that the matter concerned all of humanity. Those delegations were also of the view that Governments bore international responsibility for national activities involving the use of nuclear power sources in outer space conducted by governmental and non-governmental organizations and that such activities must be beneficial and not detrimental to humanity.

99. Some delegations called on the Legal Subcommittee to undertake a review of the Safety Framework and to promote binding standards with a view to ensuring that any activity conducted in outer space was governed by the principles of preservation of life and maintenance of peace.

100. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be greater coordination and interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote the development of binding international standards to provide a legal framework for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

101. Some delegations expressed the view that more attention should be paid to the legal issues associated with the use of satellite platforms with nuclear power sources in Earth orbits, in the light of reported failures and collisions that posed a high risk to humanity.

102. The view was expressed that it was necessary not only to codify international law, but also to strengthen it and to review international instruments such as the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 47/68), with a view to adopting a binding instrument.

103. The view was expressed that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be modified by deleting, from principle 3 (Guidelines and criteria for safe use), paragraphs 2 (a) (iii) and 3 (a), which refer to the use of nuclear reactors and radioisotope generators in Earth orbits.

104. Some delegations expressed the view that the revision of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space was not necessary at present.

105. The view was expressed that countries and intergovernmental organizations that had developed and used nuclear power sources in outer space activities should

actively participate in the technical presentations as a means to increase transparency and accountability on the issue.

106. The Subcommittee agreed that it was necessary to continue examining the issue and that the item should remain on its agenda.

### **VIII. Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets**

107. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 9, entitled “Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

108. The representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and the United States made statements under agenda item 9. Statements under the item were also made by the observers for ITU and Unidroit.

109. At its 861st meeting, on 9 April, the Subcommittee heard a statement by the observer for Unidroit in which he apprised the Subcommittee of developments in relation to the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets since the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee.

110. The Subcommittee noted the efforts made by Unidroit to promote the early entry into force of the Protocol.

111. The Subcommittee noted that, since its adoption on 9 March 2012, the Protocol had been signed by Burkina Faso, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe and that, in order for it to enter into force, 10 ratifications, acceptances, approvals or accessions were needed, as well as certification by the supervisory authority confirming that the international registry for space assets was fully operational.

112. The Subcommittee also noted that ITU continued to express its interest in becoming the supervisory authority, subject to the matter being considered by the governing bodies of ITU and without prejudice to the decision to be taken by them in that regard.

113. The Subcommittee further noted that the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the Establishment of the International Registry for Space Assets would be held in Rome on 6 and 7 May 2013 and that the Commission would be composed of experts nominated by Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, France, India, Italy, Germany, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain and the United States. In that connection, the Subcommittee noted that it was expected that, at its forthcoming session, the Preparatory Commission might consider, among other things, (a) setting up a working group to draft regulations for the future international registry for space assets; (b) setting up a working group to draft a request for proposals for the selection of the registrar of the registry; and (c) the issue of the appointment of the supervisory authority of the registry.

114. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the official commentary on the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets was being finalized and would be submitted to the Unidroit Governing Council at its 92nd session, to be held in Rome from 8 to 10 May 2013, with a view to its publication.

## **IX. Capacity-building in space law**

115. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 10, entitled “Capacity-building in space law”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

116. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States made statements under agenda item 10. Statements were also made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and by the observer for Luxembourg. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

117. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Report on the United Nations/Argentina Workshop on Space Law on the theme “Contribution of space law to economic and social development”, held in Buenos Aires from 5 to 8 November 2012 (A/AC.105/1037);

(b) Proceedings of the United Nations/Argentina Workshop on Space Law: “Contribution of space law to economic and social development” (ST/SPACE/58);

(c) Conference room papers containing information submitted by Australia, Austria, Colombia, Kazakhstan and Portugal on actions and initiatives to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.9-11 and 20);

(d) Conference room paper containing a directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.15).

118. The Subcommittee heard a presentation entitled “Recent progress of capacity-building in space law in Japan: the case of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency”, by the representative of Japan.

119. The Subcommittee agreed that capacity-building, training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology, especially in developing countries, and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out. It was emphasized that the Subcommittee had an important role to play in that regard.

120. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that a number of national, regional and international efforts to build capacity in space law were being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental entities. Those efforts included encouraging universities to offer modules on space law; providing fellowships for graduate and postgraduate education in space law; assisting in the development of national space legislation and policy frameworks; organizing workshops, seminars and other specialized activities to promote greater understanding of space law; providing

financial and technical support for legal research; preparing dedicated studies, papers and publications on space law; supporting space law moot court competitions; supporting the participation of young professionals in regional and international meetings relating to space law; providing for training and other opportunities to build experience; and supporting entities dedicated to the study of and research relating to space law.

121. The Subcommittee noted that some Member States provided financial assistance to enable students to attend the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, held each year during the International Astronautical Congress. The Subcommittee further noted that the World Finals of the 2013 Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition would be held in Beijing in September, during the 56th Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space of IISL.

122. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that the *travaux préparatoires* for the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, constituted a valuable source of information for academics and national legislators alike and contributed to capacity-building in space law.

123. The Subcommittee noted that the agenda item on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and the agenda item on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space had great potential to further the contribution of the Subcommittee to capacity-building, as the discussions and exchange of information would be of practical value to States in setting up their space activities.

124. The Subcommittee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs planned to organize a session on space law on the margins of the Fifth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, to be held in Ghana in 2013.

125. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that, pursuant to paragraph 45 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/1038), the Office for Outer Space Affairs had invited States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to nominate experts to take part in the mission to evaluate the capacity of Beihang University in Beijing to serve as the host of a regional centre for space science and technology education under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

126. The Subcommittee noted that the Government of China had stated that it would welcome the nomination by member States of experts for that mission.

127. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the holding of the eighth United Nations workshop on space law, on the theme “Contribution of space law to economic and social development”. The workshop, held in Buenos Aires from 5 to 8 November 2012, had been hosted by the Government of Argentina and organized jointly by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) of Argentina, with the support of ESA.

128. The Subcommittee noted that the workshop had discussed the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in fostering international cooperation in space activities, and in that regard had taken note of the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012 (contained in document A/AC.105/993), which included a set of recommendations on ways and means of strengthening the use of space-derived geospatial data for the purpose of supporting sustainable development policies and of establishing national spatial data infrastructures.

129. The Subcommittee also noted that the workshop had reviewed the development of national space legislation in 13 countries in the region, acknowledging the value of the report of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/C.2/101).

130. The Subcommittee noted that the workshops organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with host countries were a valuable contribution to capacity-building in space law and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

131. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had updated the directory of education opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.15), including with information on available fellowships and scholarships, and agreed that the Office should continue to update the directory. In that connection, the Subcommittee invited member States to encourage contributions at the national level for the future updating of the directory.

132. The Subcommittee also noted with satisfaction that the education curriculum on space law would be finalized in 2013 and that it would constitute a dynamic educational tool that could be easily used by educators from different professional backgrounds. The Subcommittee welcomed the fact that the curriculum would have a web-based compilation of reading materials, to be found on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which would be updated as new or additional materials were identified.

133. The Subcommittee recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law.

## **X. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

134. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 11, entitled “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

135. The representatives of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States made statements under agenda item 11. A statement was also made by the

representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

136. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217, of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was an important step in providing all spacefaring nations with guidance on how to mitigate the problem of space debris.

137. The Subcommittee noted that the exchange of information under agenda item 11 would, inter alia, assist States in understanding the different approaches, including the development of national regulatory frameworks, that States had taken to mitigate and prevent the increase in space debris.

138. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that some States were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and/or the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and that other States had developed their own space debris mitigation standards based on those guidelines. The Subcommittee also noted that some States were using the IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 24113 (Space systems: space debris mitigation requirements) as references in their regulatory frameworks for national space activities.

139. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that some States had taken measures to incorporate internationally recognized guidelines and standards related to space debris through relevant provisions in their national legislation.

140. The Subcommittee noted that some States had strengthened their national mechanisms governing space debris mitigation through the nomination of governmental supervisory authorities, the involvement of academia and industry and the development of new legislative norms, instructions, standards and frameworks.

141. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important for States to implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, given that the future of space activities depended to a great extent on the mitigation of space debris.

142. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should deepen its work relating to space debris and pay greater attention to the problem of collisions involving space debris and space objects, including space objects with nuclear power sources on board, as well as to other issues relating to space debris.

143. The view was expressed that it was important to pay attention to the problem of space debris not only in outer space, but also in cases of its uncontrolled return to the Earth's surface, and therefore to deepen corresponding international norms and standards in order to strengthen the safety of both persons and the environment.

144. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should undertake a legal analysis of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

145. The view was expressed that granting the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee a higher legal status might help to reinforce the regulatory framework at the global level, and that the adoption of the Guidelines by the General Assembly could be a satisfactory option for the near future.

146. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should develop legally binding mitigation standards that would take into account the historical responsibility of spacefaring nations for the problem, so that undue costs were not imposed on the space programmes of developing countries.

147. The view was expressed that the issue of space debris could not be restricted to its technological aspects or left solely to voluntary commitments, as incidents involving space debris could have serious legal implications.

148. The view was expressed that the serious challenge posed by space debris to the peaceful uses of outer space justified a broader consideration of regulatory mechanisms, beyond the context of national measures relating to space debris mitigation.

149. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should consider the matters relating to space debris not only through the review of legal mechanisms, but also by looking at other instruments, such as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular its principle 2.

150. The view was expressed that the Legal Subcommittee should cooperate with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in developing binding rules for space debris mitigation.

151. The view was expressed that a non-binding approach to the regulation of matters relating to space debris mitigation was effective and beneficial for all nations if implemented domestically through policy or regulation.

152. Some delegations expressed the view that the international standards on space debris mitigation were living documents; they could be adapted to the latest developments in and knowledge of space debris mitigation measures and thus assist in avoiding gaps between the development of technology and actual space operations.

153. The view was expressed that enlightened self-interest in the safety and sustainability of space activities, rather than the force of legal obligations, was the main driver for States to take measures to mitigate space debris.

154. Some delegations expressed the view that the Legal Subcommittee could benefit from the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the subsidiary expert groups of that Working Group.

155. Some delegations expressed the view that the efforts of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and its expert groups to develop a set of technical guidelines were consistent with the principles of the existing international framework governing the activities of States in outer space.

156. Some delegations expressed the view that the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities should serve as a basis for identifying substantive topics that could be considered by the Legal Subcommittee.

157. The view was expressed that the ongoing work on the long-term sustainability of space activities in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had shown that that topic involved a number of regulatory issues that ought to be addressed by the Legal Subcommittee.

158. Some delegations expressed the view that States should strengthen their collaboration and dialogue in order to identify areas of concern and to advance solutions to space debris issues.

159. Some delegations expressed the view that the resolution of the problem of space debris would ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, increase transparency in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and strengthen international space cooperation.

160. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the seminar entitled “The relevance of general international law for debris questions”, organized by ESPI and held on 11 April.

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

161. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 12, entitled “Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space”, as an item under its five-year workplan (A/AC.105/1003, para. 179). In accordance with the workplan, in 2013 the Subcommittee conducted an exchange of information on the range of existing international space cooperation mechanisms.

162. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Nigeria, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and the United States made statements under agenda item 12. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

163. At its 869th meeting, on 15 April, the Subcommittee elected Setsuko Aoki of Japan as Chair of the working group on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, to be convened in 2014.

164. The Subcommittee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space containing information received from Australia, Kazakhstan and Portugal (A/AC.105/C.2/102);

(b) Conference room paper on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space containing information received from Austria, China and Germany (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.14);<sup>1</sup>

(c) Conference room paper on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space containing information received from the United States (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.17);

<sup>1</sup> To be issued subsequently as document A/AC.105/C.2/102/Add.1.

(d) Conference room paper containing the curriculum vitae of Setsuko Aoki, Chair of the working group on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.23);

(e) Conference room paper containing the intergovernmental agreement on the International Space Station (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.24).

165. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the following special presentations made under agenda item 12:

(a) “International Space Station”, by William H. Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Chair of the Multilateral Coordination Board of the International Space Station;

(b) “The legal framework for the International Space Station”, by the representatives of the following space agencies: Canadian Space Agency, ESA, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, NASA and Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos);

(c) “International mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space based on non-binding agreements”, by the representative of Japan.

166. The Subcommittee also noted with appreciation the special lunchtime seminar organized by Japan entitled “National and international mechanisms of space law”, which was held on 16 April.

167. The Subcommittee noted that since the beginning of the space age, there had been a constant increase in international cooperation pursued through a broad range of international space cooperation mechanisms concluded at the international, regional and subregional levels.

168. The Subcommittee noted that the exchange of information on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in space activities should focus not only on the legal aspects of those mechanisms but also on practical issues, such as the reasons behind the development of such mechanisms and the benefits for States that acceded to them.

169. The Subcommittee noted the breadth and diversity of the mechanisms utilized in space cooperation, including multilateral and bilateral legally binding agreements; legally non-binding arrangements, principles and technical guidelines; multilateral coordination mechanisms through which space system operators coordinated the development of applications of space systems for the benefit of the environment, human security and welfare, and development; and a variety of international and regional forums, including the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APSCO and the Space Conference of the Americas.

170. The Subcommittee noted that the ongoing International Space Station programme was a unique multilateral cooperation endeavour, underpinned by the intergovernmental agreement on the International Space Station, which provided for a long-term multilateral framework among the partners for the design, development,

operation and utilization of the International Space Station in accordance with international law.

171. The Subcommittee noted that the review of the mechanisms for cooperation in space activities would assist States in understanding the different approaches to cooperation in space activities and would contribute to the further strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. In that regard, the Subcommittee noted that 2017, the final year of consideration of the agenda item, according to its workplan, coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty.

172. The view was expressed that international cooperation in outer space activities should be based on the concept of inclusive development, bringing the benefits of space activities to all countries, irrespective of their level of economic development, in accordance with the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996.

173. The view was expressed that the international cooperation mechanisms of the space community should be extended to include partnerships with entities engaged in development assistance, thus strengthening the contribution of space technology and its applications to sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

174. The Subcommittee 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 2014, be invited to provide information on the range of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms they utilized for space cooperation, including existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, non-binding arrangements, principles, technical guidelines and other cooperation mechanisms, in order for the working group to develop an understanding of the range of collaborative mechanisms employed by States and international organizations and the circumstances in which States favoured certain classes of mechanisms over others.

## **XII. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session**

175. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 13, entitled “Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session”, as a regular item on its agenda. Under that item, the Subcommittee also considered matters related to the organization of work of the Subcommittee.

176. The representatives of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain and the

United States made statements under agenda item 13. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States, and by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

#### **A. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session**

177. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Working paper entitled “New agenda item on general exchange of information on practices in relation to non-legally binding instruments for outer space activities”, submitted by Japan and co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States (A/AC.105/C.2/L.291);

(b) A conference room paper containing proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.22).

178. The Chair drew the attention of the Subcommittee to the proposals for new items to be included in its agenda, as contained in the report on its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1003, para. 192).

179. The Subcommittee noted the proposal by Japan, and co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States, that the Subcommittee should include on its agenda a new item entitled “General exchange of information on practices in relation to non-legally binding instruments for outer space activities”.

180. Some delegations expressed the view that the proposal made by Japan was timely, in view of the importance of gaining knowledge about how States were putting into practice the non-legally binding United Nations instruments for outer space activities. Those delegations emphasized that a compilation of information about the practices of States in that regard would be a useful tool for States when developing their national regulatory frameworks for outer space activities. In that connection, those delegations expressed their support for the proposal.

181. Some delegations expressed the view that while the initiative by Japan was welcome, a number of questions relating to the objectives, methodology, scope and outcome of work under the proposed item should be further elaborated and clarified before the proposal could be included as an item on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

182. The Subcommittee noted that the delegation of Japan would conduct further consultations with a view to submitting a revised version of the proposal for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in June 2013.

183. The Subcommittee agreed that the agenda item entitled “Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets” should be discontinued as a single issue/item for discussion and that the representative of Unidroit should be invited to update the Subcommittee on developments relating to the Protocol under the agenda item entitled “Information

on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law”.

184. The Subcommittee agreed that the agenda item entitled “Capacity-building in space law” should be considered as a regular item on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

185. The Subcommittee agreed that the two single issues/items for discussion entitled “Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space” and “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, should be retained on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session.

186. The Subcommittee agreed on the following items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session:

*Regular items*

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. Matters relating to:
  - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
  - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
9. Capacity-building in space law.

*Single issues/items for discussion*

10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

*Items considered under workplans*

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

(Work for 2014 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1003, para. 179))

*New items*

13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session.

187. The Subcommittee also agreed that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space should be reconvened at its fifty-third session, and that the working group on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space should be convened to begin its work at that session.

188. The Subcommittee further agreed to review, at its fifty-third session, the need to extend beyond that session the mandate of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

189. The Subcommittee agreed that IISL and ECSL should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during its fifty-third session.

190. The view was expressed that the issue of “soft law” in space activities could be included as a possible topic during that symposium.

191. The Subcommittee recalled the proposal by Saudi Arabia to include on the agenda of the Subcommittee an item entitled “Regulation of the dissemination of Earth observation satellite images through the World Wide Web”, and noted that Saudi Arabia intended to retain that proposal for possible discussion at subsequent sessions of the Subcommittee.

192. The Subcommittee noted that the proposal by the Czech Republic for a new agenda item, as reflected in the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1003, para. 192 (b)), would not be retained, as the substance of the proposal was already covered by the agenda item “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”.

193. The Subcommittee noted that proposals for new items that had not been retained on the list of items for possible discussion at subsequent sessions could be included on that list at a later time, as appropriate.

194. The Subcommittee noted that its fifty-third session had been tentatively scheduled to be held from 24 March to 4 April 2014.

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## B. Organizational matters

195. Some delegations expressed the view that in order to optimize the efficiency of the Legal Subcommittee, the duration of its sessions should be shortened from two weeks to one week. Those delegations emphasized that such a change would not affect the quality or outcome of deliberations in the Subcommittee.

196. Some delegations expressed the view that the shortening of the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee would undermine its ability to continue to guarantee the rule of law in space activities, ensure the progressive development of space law and maintain outer space as a province of humankind for peaceful uses. Those delegations also noted that the Subcommittee received proposals for new agenda items every year and that adequate time was required for their consideration.

197. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be increased synergy and cooperation between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, in order to further enhance consistency in the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees and to further the understanding and application of existing legal instruments relating to space law.

198. Some delegations expressed the view that items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee should be streamlined and rationalized in order to improve the effectiveness of discussions and allow the cost-effective participation of delegations in the work of the Subcommittee, and that the efficiency and discipline involved in that work should be enhanced.

199. The Subcommittee agreed to continue applying maximum flexibility in the scheduling of agenda items, in particular those under which working groups would be convened.

200. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the demonstration by the Conference Management Service on the enhanced website for digital recordings, established in accordance with the decision made by the Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/AC.105/C.2/L.282).

## Annex I

### **Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space**

1. At its 859th meeting, on 8 April 2013, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space under the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence (Belgium).
2. The Working Group held four meetings, from 9 to 18 April 2013. At the opening meeting, the Chair recalled the mandate of the Working Group (A/AC.105/942, annex I, paras. 4 and 6, and A/AC.105/990, annex I, para. 7).
3. The Chair also recalled that the Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, had agreed to review, at its fifty-second session, the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, para. 182).
4. The Working Group had before it the following:
  - (a) *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents* (ST/SPACE/61);
  - (b) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2013 (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.5);
  - (c) Set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.12);
  - (d) Responses received from Germany and Kazakhstan to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.13);
  - (e) Response received from Austria to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.18).
5. The Working Group noted that the questionnaire contained in A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.12 continued to provide a good basis for discussion, within the mandate of the Working Group, on matters relevant to the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
6. During the discussion of the questionnaire and the responses received, the Working Group noted that its continued discussion would benefit from more written contributions from member States and from international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee, in order for the Working Group to develop a collection of views for future consideration.

7. The Working Group noted that the questionnaire was clustered into three parts and observed that:

(a) Question 1 concerned issues related to the Moon Agreement and provisions of the Outer Space Treaty, and was broad enough to capture additional matters related to the overall regime covering the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies;

(b) Question 2 covered issues specifically related to responsibility and liability under the United Nations treaties on outer space, and served as a good basis for further discussion on the applicability of other instruments, such as the United Nations principles on outer space and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(c) Question 3 dealt with the registration of objects launched into outer space, in particular the issue of transfer of ownership or control of space objects in orbit, and the broader issue of transfer of space activities.

8. The Working Group noted that the questionnaire focused on essential questions of practical relevance and served to organize and rationalize the work of the Working Group, that the questions presented in the questionnaire were not exhaustive and that they should not limit the discussion of the Working Group during the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee.

9. The Working Group agreed that the discussions on the questions in the questionnaire could benefit from the work conducted under other items on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

10. The Working Group agreed that States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should again be invited to provide comments and responses to the questions in the questionnaire prepared by the Chair. The questionnaire would again be made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, and any replies received would be made available in a conference room paper.

11. Some delegations recalled the validity of the joint statement on the benefits of adherence to the Moon Agreement by some of the States parties to the Agreement (A/AC.105/C.2/L.272) as a useful contribution to a discussion on national legislative processes in the ratification and implementation of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

12. Some delegations reiterated the view that the Working Group should take a practical rather than a theoretical approach in discussing the provisions of the treaties.

13. The Working Group noted that a comprehensive discussion had taken place at its current session with respect to issues on the relationship between the United Nations treaties on outer space, their implementation and application, and the nature of several fundamental principles laid down in those treaties. The role of the Legal Subcommittee to provide a platform for exchange of information and views on reasons of States for acceding or not acceding to those treaties was emphasized.

14. The Working Group recommended that the Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, in 2014, reconvene the Working Group and review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session.

15. The Working Group agreed that the Chair of the Working Group, together with the Secretariat, should present to the Working Group at its next session, in 2014, an overview of the responses to the questionnaire, including a synthesis of views presented in writing and raised in the discussions during its sessions, to provide a basis for streamlining, broadening or tailoring the set of questions in the questionnaire in the interests of promoting further discussions within the mandate of the Working Group.

## Annex II

### Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space

1. At its 860th meeting, on 8 April 2013, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space under the chairmanship of José Monserrat Filho (Brazil).
2. The Chair drew the attention of the Working Group to the fact that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Working Group had been convened to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.
3. The Working Group had before it the following:
  - (a) Note by the Secretariat entitled “National legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space” (A/AC.105/865/Add.12-13);
  - (b) Note by the Secretariat entitled “Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: replies from Member States” (A/AC.105/889/Add.11-12);
  - (c) Note by the Secretariat entitled “Questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation” (A/AC.105/1039 and Add.1);
  - (d) Conference room paper entitled “Summary of information on national practices and legislation of States with regard to the definition and delimitation of outer space” (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.8);
  - (e) Conference room paper entitled “Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: reply of Pakistan” (A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.16).
4. The Working Group commended the Secretariat for establishing a web page within the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat dedicated to the work of the Working Group on matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and for uploading relevant documents to that page.
5. Some delegations expressed the view that scientific and technological progress, the commercialization of outer space, the participation of the private sector, emerging legal questions and the increasing use of outer space in general had made it necessary to define and delimit airspace and outer space.
6. Some delegations expressed the view that States should continue to operate under the current framework, which had functioned well, and that, at present, any attempt to define or delimit outer space would be a theoretical and academic exercise that could complicate existing activities and might not be able to anticipate future technological developments.
7. The Working Group noted that approaches to the development of a legal definition and delimitation of outer space could be classified in two broad categories: a conceptual approach, which favoured the identification of a demarcation line between airspace and outer space, and a functional approach, which looked at the nature or purpose of the activity (i.e. space activity), not the

location of the activity. In that connection, the Group noted the proposals by the Chair to examine those approaches under the terms of the existing United Nations treaties on outer space, as well as to consider undertaking a mixed approach, based on a synthesis of the two approaches, in matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

8. On the basis of its discussions, the Working Group agreed:

(a) To continue to invite States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit information on national legislation or any national practices that might exist or were being developed that related directly or indirectly to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and airspace, taking into account the current and foreseeable level of development of space and aviation technologies;

(b) To continue to address to the Governments of Member States, through the Secretariat, the following questions:

(i) Does your Government consider it necessary to define outer space and/or to delimit airspace 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;

(ii) Does your Government consider another approach to solving this issue? Please provide a justification for the answer;

(iii) Does your Government give consideration to the possibility of defining a lower limit of outer space and/or an upper limit of airspace, recognizing at the same time the possibility of enacting special international or national legislation relating to a mission carried out by an object in both airspace and outer space?

(c) To continue to invite Member States of the United Nations and permanent observers of the Committee to provide their replies to the following questions:

(i) Is there a relationship between suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation and the definition and delimitation of outer space?

(ii) Will the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation be practically useful for States and other actors with regard to space activities?

(iii) How could suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation be defined?

(iv) Which legislation applies or could be applied to suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation?

(v) How will the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation impact the progressive development of space law?

(vi) Please propose other questions to be considered in the framework of the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation.

## Annex III

### **Set of recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, for submission as a separate draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session**

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* the importance of appropriate means of ensuring that outer space is used for peaceful purposes and that the obligations under international law and those specifically contained in the United Nations treaties on outer space<sup>a</sup> are implemented,

*Recalling* its resolutions 59/115 of 10 December 2004 on the application of the concept of the “launching State”, and 62/101 of 17 December 2007 on recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects,

*Taking note* of the work of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the report of its Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>b</sup>

*Noting* that nothing in the conclusions of the Working Group or in the present recommendations constitutes an authoritative interpretation or a proposed amendment to the United Nations treaties on outer space,

*Observing* that, in view of the increasing participation of non-governmental entities in space activities, appropriate action at the national level is needed, in particular with respect to the authorization and supervision of non-governmental space activities,

*Taking note* of the need to maintain the sustainable use of outer space, in particular by mitigating space debris, and to ensure the safety of space activities and minimize the potential harm to the environment,

*Recalling* the provisions contained in the United Nations treaties on outer space with respect to providing information, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, on the activities carried out in outer space, in particular through registration of objects launched into outer space,

<sup>a</sup> Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

<sup>b</sup> A/AC.105/C.2/101.

*Noting* the need for consistency and predictability with regard to the authorization and supervision of space activities and the need for a practical regulatory system for the involvement of non-governmental entities to provide further incentives for enacting regulatory frameworks at the national level, and noting that some States also include national space activities of a governmental character within that framework,

*Recognizing* the different approaches taken by States in dealing with various aspects of national space activities, namely by means of unified acts or a combination of national legal instruments, and noting that States have adapted their national legal frameworks according to their specific needs and practical considerations and that national legal requirements depend to a high degree on the range of space activities conducted and the level of involvement of non-governmental entities,

*Recommends* the following elements for consideration, as appropriate, by States when enacting regulatory frameworks for national space activities, in accordance with their national law, taking into account their specific needs and requirements:

1. The scope of space activities targeted by national regulatory frameworks may include, as appropriate, the launch of objects into and their return from outer space, the operation of a launch or re-entry site and the operation and control of space objects in orbit; other issues for consideration may include the design and manufacture of spacecraft, the application of space science and technology, and exploration activities and research;

2. The State, taking into account its obligations as a launching State and as a State responsible for national activities in outer space under the United Nations treaties on outer space, should ascertain national jurisdiction over space activities carried out from territory under its jurisdiction and/or control; likewise, it should issue authorizations for and ensure supervision over space activities carried out elsewhere by its citizens and/or legal persons established, registered or seated in territory under its jurisdiction and/or control, provided, however, that if another State is exercising jurisdiction with respect to such activities, the State should consider forbearing from duplicative requirements and avoid unnecessary burdens;

3. Space activities should require authorization by a competent national authority; such authority or authorities, as well as the conditions and procedures for granting, modifying, suspending and revoking the authorization, should be set out clearly within the regulatory framework; States might employ specific procedures for the licensing and/or for the authorization of different kinds of space activities;

4. The conditions for authorization should be consistent with the international obligations of States, in particular under the United Nations treaties on outer space, and with other relevant instruments, and may reflect the national security and foreign policy interests of States; the conditions for authorization should help to ascertain that space activities are carried out in a safe manner and minimize risks to persons, the environment or property and that those activities do not lead to harmful interference with other space activities; such conditions could also relate to the experience, expertise and

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technical qualifications of the applicant and could include safety and technical standards that are in line, in particular, with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;<sup>c</sup>

5. Appropriate procedures should ensure continuing supervision and monitoring of authorized space activities by applying, for example, a system of on-site inspections or a more general reporting requirement; enforcement mechanisms could include administrative measures, such as the suspension or revocation of the authorization, and/or penalties, as appropriate;

6. A national registry of objects launched into outer space should be maintained by an appropriate national authority; operators or owners of space objects for which the State is considered to be the launching State or the State responsible for national activities in outer space under the United Nations treaties on outer space should be requested to submit information to the authority to enable the State on whose registry such objects are carried to submit the relevant information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with applicable international instruments, including the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,<sup>d</sup> and in consideration of General Assembly resolutions 1721 (XVI) B of 20 December 1961 and 62/101 of 17 December 2007; the State may also request information on any change in the main characteristics of space objects, in particular when they have become non-functional;

7. States could consider ways of seeking recourse from operators or owners of space objects if their liability for damage under the United Nations treaties on outer space has become engaged; in order to ensure appropriate coverage for damage claims, States could introduce insurance requirements and indemnification procedures, as appropriate;

8. Continuing supervision of the space activities of non-governmental entities should be ensured in the event of the transfer of ownership or control of a space object in orbit; national regulations may provide for authorization requirements with regard to the transfer of ownership or obligations for the submission of information on the change in status of the operation of a space object in orbit.

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<sup>c</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20), annex.*

<sup>d</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020.