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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space: replies from Member States

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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I. Introduction

1. At the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2013, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space agreed to continue to address to the Governments of Member States the following questions (A/AC.105/1045, annex II, para. 8 (b)):

(a) 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;

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

(c) 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?

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

II. Replies received from Member States

Argentina

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Question (a). The present magnitude of space and aviation activities and technologies has not given rise to a need for the adoption of specific provisions delimiting outer space. Nevertheless, it is considered that the subject should be appropriately monitored, including all the areas involved.

Question (c). Space activities have so far proceeded normally in spite of the absence of a definition or delimitation of airspace and outer space. However, in the absence of an agreement on how to delimit airspace and outer space, thought could be given to the possibility of an agreement between States on a limit of a conventional type.