



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
21 May 2024

Original: English

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee

### Draft 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 1054th meeting, on 15 April, 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, with Franziska Knur (Germany) as its Chair.
2. From 16 to 24 April, the Working Group held six meetings. The Working Group considered the following items:
  - (a) The name of the Working Group and its scope;
  - (b) The status of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;
  - (c) The set of questions of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities;
  - (d) Exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;
  - (e) Future topics to be considered by the Working Group.
3. The Working Group had before it the following:
  - (a) Report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy: the Outer Space Treaty for the twenty-first century, held online from 28 to 30 November 2023 (A/AC.105/1322);
  - (b) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2024 (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.3);
  - (c) Conference room paper containing the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.7);
  - (d) Conference room paper containing responses 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 received from Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Ghana, Morocco and Slovakia (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.8);
  - (e) Conference room paper containing a schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.10);



(f) Conference room paper entitled “Growth of the Committee membership and universalization of the five United Nations treaties on space law”, submitted by the Secure World Foundation (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.19);

(g) Conference room paper containing responses to the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities received from Angola, Morocco and the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.20);

(h) Conference room paper entitled “Sharing approaches of the United Kingdom to article XI implementation and notifications”, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.21);

(i) Conference room paper entitled “United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Stakeholder Study Report on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space”, submitted by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.22).

4. The Working Group agreed that its name would remain the “Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space” for practical reasons, on the understanding that States members would be welcome to bring to the attention of the Working Group any issue related to any of the topics covered by the new agenda item entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation”.

5. The Working Group noted the wealth of knowledge that had been generated by collecting comments on and responses to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group and the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities, and agreed to suspend the invitation to States members and permanent observers of the Committee to provide comments on and responses to the questions, on the understanding that the Working Group could revisit and revise the questions and invite responses to them whenever it deemed fit.

6. The Working Group welcomed the launch of its dedicated web page developed by the secretariat as a useful means of following the discussions of and relevant documents considered by the Working Group.

7. The Working Group commenced its exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, in which States agreed to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of the nature, conduct, locations and results of activities in outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies. The Working Group took note of the following questions that were proposed by the Chair in the information circular dated 15 March 2024:

*Section 1 – Purposes of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:*

1.1. How does the sharing of information on space activities promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space?

1.2. Does the implementation of article XI benefit the implementation of the United Nations instruments on international space law in general, and if so, to what extent?

*Section 2 – Scope of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:*

2.1. What kind of information does article XI refer to?

2.2. When would such information be shared and in what format?

*Section 3 – Means of implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:*

3.1. In general, what are the means of implementing article XI?

3.2. How does your country implement or plan to implement article XI?

3.3. Would it be useful to have a specific article XI information-sharing mechanism and if so, what form should this mechanism take?

8. The Working Group agreed to use those questions to structure the exchange of views, following an initial stocktaking of member States' practices.
9. The Working Group noted that some States had sent formal notifications to the Secretary-General under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, and that the submission of registration information to the Secretary-General on the basis of treaty obligations, as well as additional registration information as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution [62/101](#), entitled "Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects", facilitated the exchange of information on, inter alia, the nature, conduct and locations of activities in outer space (see [A/AC.105/C.2/117](#), para. 43).
10. The Working Group also noted that several States made available information on space activities through national websites, through statements, reports and technical presentations delivered during sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, and through other initiatives and practices.
11. The Working Group affirmed that information-sharing was a key means of promoting and facilitating international cooperation among member States and that article XI of the Outer Space Treaty had the potential to further enhance such cooperation and further contribute to capacity-building, access to space and space activities for the benefit of all countries. The Working Group also noted the importance of information exchange for transparency and confidence-building, as well as for coordination and the avoidance of harmful interference.
12. The view was expressed that the sharing of information under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty could not be regarded as a prerequisite for honouring commitments under article IX of the Treaty.
13. The Working Group underlined that the Secretary-General was already mandated to receive and disseminate information received under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty immediately and effectively.
14. Some delegations expressed the view that identifying the information that could be submitted to the Secretary-General could facilitate the implementation of article XI. The delegations expressing that view also expressed the view that owing to the variety of activities carried out, relevant key information might differ, and further discussion was needed as to whether that key information should be identified depending on the nature of activities.
15. The view was expressed that it would be useful to have all relevant information on one web page to help member States to understand the activities carried out in outer space.
16. Some delegations expressed the view that the development of a form or forms, depending on further discussion of the identification of key information, could facilitate more extensive use of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and at the same time serve as guidance on what information could be provided to the Secretary-General.
17. Some delegations expressed the view that the model registration form to assist States and organizations developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs pursuant to General Assembly resolution [62/101](#) facilitated the registration of space objects, in particular for emerging spacefaring nations, and also contributed to the drafting by those nations of national space legislation and regulations.
18. Some delegations expressed the view that while a form or forms might serve as guidance, they should not prevent member States from using their own template when submitting information under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.
19. Some delegations expressed the view that tools could be developed to provide an easily accessible and searchable repository of the information submitted to the Secretary-General.
20. The Working Group welcomed a presentation given by the secretariat on how submissions related to treaty implementation, including submissions under article XI

and for the registration of space objects, were handled and processed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as on the ongoing work of the Office to develop an online registration portal to ensure the efficiency of registration submissions.

21. The Working Group was informed that member States had sent about 65 submissions to the Secretary-General under article XI, which included information on lunar missions, space objects and the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board.

22. The Working Group noted that the submission, processing and distribution of information by States under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty should not duplicate the work carried out in relation to the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In that regard, the Working Group requested the secretariat to develop a background paper on how the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and the Register could be kept distinct, but at the same time foster synergies.

23. At its fifth meeting, on 22 April, the Working Group agreed on the following multi-year workplan:

- 2025 Continue the exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, including by sharing additional information and updates on States' practices regarding how information on space activities has been or is planned to be shared with the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community.

The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the secretariat, will present a summary of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty in all the official languages of the United Nations for consideration by the Working Group at the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee. Reference could also be made to the discussion questions used by the Working Group to structure its exchange of information during the sixty-third session.

Initiate the preparation of a template or model submission form that could be offered to States and international intergovernmental organizations as a voluntary tool, without prejudice to any other means of informing the Secretary-General, to submit information to the Secretary-General on the nature, conduct, locations and results of their activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

- 2026 Continue the exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, including by sharing additional information and updates on States' practices regarding how information on space activities has been or is planned to be shared with the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community.

The Chair of the Working Group will present a draft template for consideration by the Working Group.

Discuss possible additional tools and practices in order to enhance the exchange of information on space activities in accordance with article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant provisions of United Nations space law instruments, such as an easily accessible and searchable repository of such information, displayed in a uniform and easily comparable manner, which could be useful and serve as a voluntary tool for building transparency, confidence and capacity.

- 2027 Finalize the template and prepare the final report of the Working Group, incorporating the results of the activities undertaken under the present multi-year workplan.

24. At its sixth meeting, on 24 April, the Working Group adopted the present report.