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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Legal Subcommittee

Fifty-fifth session

Vienna, 4-15 April 2016

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

**Status of International Agreements relating to activities in
outer space as at 1 January 2016**

A. United Nations treaties¹

1. 1967 OST	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty)
Adoption by the General Assembly:	19 December 1966 (resolution 2222 (XXI))
Opened for signature:	27 January 1967 in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C.
Entry into force:	10 October 1967
Depositaries:	Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
(Sources: 18 UST ² 2410; TIAS ³ 6347; 610 UNTS ⁴ 205)	

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.297.

¹ Depository contact information may be obtained from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the respective State of depositary. For depositary information where the Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary, please contact the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, 2 UN Plaza — 323 E 44th St., Room DC2-0501. New York, NY 10017, United States of America.

² *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*.

³ *Treaties and Other International Acts Series*.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*.



- 2. 1968 ARRA** **Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space**
(Rescue Agreement)
- Adoption by
the General Assembly: 19 December 1967
 (resolution 2345 (XXII))
- Opened for signature: 22 April 1968 in
 London, Moscow and Washington, D.C.
- Entry into force: 3 December 1968
- Depositaries: Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
- (Sources: 19 UST 7570; TIAS 6599; 672 UNTS 119)
-
- 3. 1972 LIAB** **Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects**
(Liability Convention)
- Adoption by
the General Assembly: 29 November 1971
 (resolution 2777 (XXVI))
- Opened for signature: 29 March 1972 in
 London, Moscow and Washington, D.C.
- Entry into force: 1 September 1972
- Depositaries: Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
- (Sources: 24 UST 2389; TIAS 7762; 961 UNTS 187)
-
- 4. 1975 REG** **Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space**
(Registration Convention)
- Adoption by
the General Assembly: 12 November 1974
 (resolution 3235 (XXIX))
- Opened for signature: 14 January 1975 in New York
- Entry into force: 15 September 1976
- Depositary: Secretary-General of the United Nations
- (Sources: 28 UST 695; TIAS 8480; 1023 UNTS 15)
-
- 5. 1979 MOON** **Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies**
(Moon Agreement)
- Adoption by
the General Assembly: 5 December 1979
 (resolution 34/68)
- Opened for signature: 18 December 1979 in New York
- Entry into force: 11 July 1984
- Depositary: Secretary-General of the United Nations
- (Sources: 18 ILM⁵ 1434; 1363 UNTS 3)

⁵ *International Legal Materials.*

B. Other agreements

General

- 6. 1963 NTB** **Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water**
- Opened for signature: 5 August 1963 in Moscow
- Entry into force: 10 October 1963
- Depositaries: Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
- (*Sources:* 14 UST 1313; TIAS 5433; 480 UNTS 43)

- 7. 1974 BRS** **Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite**
- Opened for signature: 21 May 1974 in Brussels
- Entry into force: 25 August 1979
- Depositary: Secretary-General of the United Nations
- (*Source:* 1144 UNTS 3)

Institutions

- 8. 1971 ITSO** **Agreement Relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)**, with annexes
- Opened for signature: 20 August 1971 in Washington, D.C.
- Entry into force: 12 February 1973
- Depositary: United States of America
- (*Sources:* 23 UST 3813 and 4091; TIAS 7532)

- 9. 1971 INTR** **Agreement on the Establishment of the INTERSPUTNIK International System and Organization of Space Communications**
- Opened for signature: 15 November 1971 in Moscow
- Entry into force: 12 July 1972
- Depositary: Russian Federation
- (*Source:* 862 UNTS 3)

- 10. 1975 ESA** **Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency (ESA)**, with annexes
- Opened for signature: 30 May 1975 in Paris
- Entry into force: 30 October 1980
- Depositary: France
- (*Source:* 14 ILM 864)

- 11. 1976 ARB** **Agreement of the Arab Corporation for Space Communications (ARABSAT)** (amended in May 1990)
- Opened for signature: 14 April 1976 (14 Rabi' II 1396 H) in Cairo
- Entry into force: 16 July 1976
- Depositary: League of Arab States
- (*Source:* *Space Law and Related Documents*, U.S. Senate, 101st Congress, 2nd Session, 395 (1990))

- 12. 1976 INTC** **Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes (INTERCOSMOS)**
Opened for signature: 13 July 1976 in Moscow
Entry into force: 25 March 1977
Depositary: Russian Federation
(Source: 16 ILM 1)
- 13. 1976 IMSO** **Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization,**
with annex (amended in April 1998 to provide for the restructuring
of Inmarsat; the amendments entered into force on 31 July 2001);
further amended in October 2008 to provide for oversight by IMSO
of GMDSS providers in addition to Inmarsat, and for oversight of
long-range tracking and identification of ships (LRIT); the
amendments entered into force on the basis of provisional
application with effect
from 6 October 2008 pending their formal entry into force)
Opened for signature: 3 September 1976 in London
Entry into force: 16 July 1979
Depositary: Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization
(Sources: 31 UST 1; TIAS 9605)
- 14. 1982 EUTL** **Convention Establishing the European Telecommunications**
Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT) (amended in accordance with
decisions taken by the EUTELSAT parties in May 1999 to provide
for the restructuring of EUTELSAT)
Opened for signature: 15 July 1982 in Paris
Entry into force: 1 September 1985
Depositary: France
(Source: UK Misc. No. 4, Cmnd. 9154 (1984))
- 15. 1983 EUM** **Convention for the Establishment of a European Organization for**
the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)
(amended in June 1991 to broaden its objectives to include climate
monitoring and to allow for the execution of optional programmes;
the amendments entered into force on 19 November 2000)
Opened for signature: 24 May 1983 in Geneva
Entry into force: 19 June 1986
Depositary: Switzerland
(Source: Germany, *Bundesgesetzblatt*, Jahrgang 1987, Teil II (1987), p. 256. Note: This
convention has been published in the national bulletins of the ratifying States.)
- 16. 1992 ITU** **International Telecommunication Constitution and Convention**
Opened for signature: 22 December 1992 in Geneva
Entry into force: 1 July 1994
Depositary: Secretary-General of the International
Telecommunication Union and Convention
(Source: ITU Secretariat, Place des Nations, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland)

C. Status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space (as at 1 January 2016)

(R = ratification, acceptance, approval, accession or succession; S = signature only;
D = declaration of acceptance of rights and obligations)

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements											
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992	
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU	
Afghanistan	R					R		R	R							R	
Albania														R		R	
Algeria	R		R	R		S		R			R		R			R	
Andorra														R		R	
Angola								R								R	
Antigua and Barbuda	R	R	R	R		R							R			R	
Argentina	R	R	R	R		R	S	R					R			R	
Armenia						R	R	R						R		R	
Australia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					R			R	
Austria	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		R				R	R	R	
Azerbaijan	R							R	R					R		R	
Bahamas	R	R				R		R					R			R	
Bahrain							R	R			R		R			R	
Bangladesh	R					R		R					R			R	
Barbados	R	R						R								R	
Belarus	R	R	R	R		R			R				R	R		R	
Belgium	R	R	R	R	R	R	S	R		R			R	R	R	R	
Belize																R	
Benin	R		R			R		R								R	
Bhutan						R		R								R	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	S	S				R		R								R	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		R	R			R	R	R					R	R		R	
Botswana	S	R	R			R		R								R	
Brazil	R	R	R	R		R	S	R					R			R	
Brunei Darussalam								R					R			R	
Bulgaria	R	R	R	R		R		R	R			R	R	R	R	R	
Burkina Faso	R					S		R								R	
Burundi	S		S	S		S		S ^a								R	
Cambodia			S													R	
Cameroon	S	R				S		R					R			R	
Canada	R	R	R	R		R		R		^b			R			R	
Cape Verde						R		R								R	
Central African Republic	S		S			R		R								R	
Chad						R		R								R	
Chile	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					R			R	
China	R	R	R	R		R		R					R			R	
Colombia	S	S	R	R		R	R	R					R			R	
Comoros								R					R			R	

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU
Congo									R							R
Cook Islands													R			
Costa Rica		S	S	R		R	R	R				R				R
Côte d'Ivoire						R	S	R								R
Croatia		R	R			R	R	R					R	R	R	R
Cuba	R	R	R	R				R	R			R	R			R
Cyprus	R	R	R	R		R	S	R					R	R		R
Czech Republic	R	R	R	R		R		R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	R			R				R	R				R			R
Democratic Republic of the Congo	S	S	S			R		R								R
Denmark	R	R	R	R		R		R		R			R	R	R	R
Djibouti												R				R
Dominica																R
Dominican Republic	R	S	R			R		R								R
Ecuador	R	R	R			R		R								R
Egypt	R	R	S			R		R			R		R			R
El Salvador	R	R	S			R	R	R								R
Equatorial Guinea	R					R		R								R
Eritrea																R
Estonia	R							R		R					R	R
Ethiopia	S					S		R								R
Fiji	R	R	R			R		R								R
Finland	R	R	R			R		R		R			R	R	R	R
France	R	R	R	R	S		S	R		R			R	R	R	R
Gabon		R	R			R		R					R			R
Gambia	S	R	S			R		R								R
Georgia		R						R	R					R		R
Germany	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R			R	R	R	R
Ghana	S	S	S			R		R					R			R
Greece	R	R	R	R		R	R	R		R			R	R	R	R
Grenada																R
Guatemala			S		S	R		R								R
Guinea								R								R
Guinea-Bissau	R	R				R		R								R
Guyana	S	R														R
Haiti	S	S	S			S		R								R
Holy See	S							R						R		R
Honduras	S		S			R	R	R								R
Hungary	R	R	R	R		R		R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R
Iceland	R	R	S			R		R					R	R	R	R
India	R	R	R	R	S	R		R	R				R			R
Indonesia	R	R	R	R		R		R					R			R
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	S	R	R	S		R		R					R			R

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements											
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992	
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU	
Iraq	R	R	R			R		R			R		R			R	
Ireland	R	R	R			R		R		R				R	R	R	
Israel	R	R	R			R	S	R					R			R	
Italy	R	R	R	R		R	R	R		R			R	R	R	R	
Jamaica	R	S				R	R	R								R	
Japan	R	R	R	R		R		R					R			R	
Jordan	S	S	S			R		R			R		R			R	
Kazakhstan	R	R	R	R	R			R	R					R		R	
Kenya	R		R			R	R	R					R			R	
Kiribati																R	
Kuwait	R	R	R	R	R	R		R			R		R			R	
Kyrgyzstan								R	R				R			R	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	R	R	R			R			R							R	
Latvia													R	R	R	R	
Lebanon	R	R	R	R	R	R	S	R			R		R			R	
Lesotho	S	S														R	
Liberia						R							R			R	
Libya	R	R	R	R		R		R			R		R			R	
Liechtenstein				R	R			R						R		R	
Lithuania	R	R	R	R										R	R	R	
Luxembourg	R	S	R			R		R		R				R	R	R	
Madagascar	R	R				R		R								R	
Malawi						R		R								R	
Malaysia	S	S				R		R					R			R	
Maldives		R														R	
Mali	R		R			S		R								R	
Malta		S	R			R		R					R	R		R	
Marshall Islands													R			R	
Mauritania						R		R								R	
Mauritius	R	R				R		R					R			R	
Mexico	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					R			R	
Micronesia (Federated States of)								R								R	
Monaco		S						R					R	R		R	
Mongolia	R	R	R	R		R		R	R			R	R			R	
Montenegro		R	R	R		R	R	R					R	R		R	
Morocco	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R		R			R	
Mozambique								R					R			R	
Myanmar	R	S				R										R	
Namibia								R								R	
Nauru																R	
Nepal	R	R	S			R		R								R	
Netherlands	R	R	R	R	R	R		R		R			R	R	R	R	
New Zealand	R	R	R			R		R					R			R	
Nicaragua	S	S	S	S		R	R	R	R							R	

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements											
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992	
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU	
Niger	R	R	R	R		R		R								R	
Nigeria	R	R	R	R		R		R					R			R	
Norway	R	R	R	R		R		R		R			R	R	R	R	
Oman			S				R	R			R		R			R	
Pakistan	R	R	R	R	R	R		R					R			R	
Palau													R				
Panama	S		R			R	R	R					R			R	
Papua New Guinea	R	R	R			R		R								R	
Paraguay						S		R								R	
Peru	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					R			R	
Philippines	S	S	S		R	R		R					R			R	
Poland	R	R	R	R		R		R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	
Portugal	R	R				S	R	R		R			R	R	R	R	
Qatar	R	R	R	R				R			R		R			R	
Republic of Korea	R	R	R	R		R	R	R					R			R	
Republic of Moldova							R							R		R	
Romania	R	R	R		S	R		R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	
Russian Federation	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R			R	R	R		R	
Rwanda	S	S	S			R	R	R								R	
Saint Kitts and Nevis																R	
Saint Lucia																R	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	R	R	R	R												R	
Samoa						R										R	
San Marino	R	R				R								R		R	
Sao Tome and Principe																R	
Saudi Arabia	R		R	R	R			R			R		R			R	
Senegal		S	R			R	S	R					R			R	
Serbia	S	R	R	R		R	R	R					R	R		R	
Seychelles	R	R	R	R		R										R	
Sierra Leone	R	S	S			R										R	
Singapore	R	R	R	S		R	R	R					R			R	
Slovakia	R	R	R	R		R						R	R	R	R	R	
Slovenia		R	R			R	R							R	R	R	
Solomon Islands																R	
Somalia	S	S				S		R	R		R					R	
South Africa	R	R	R	R		R		R					R			R	
South Sudan																R	
Spain	R	R	R	R		R	S	R		R			R	R	R	R	
Sri Lanka	R		R			R		R					R			R	
Sudan						R		R			R					R	
Suriname						R										R	
Swaziland		R				R		R								R	
Sweden	R	R	R	R		R		R		R			R	R	R	R	
Switzerland	R	R	R	R		R	R	R		R			R	R	R	R	

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements											
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992	
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU	
Syrian Arab Republic	R	R	R			R		R	R		R					R	
Tajikistan								R	R							R	
Thailand	R	R				R		R					R			R	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia							R							R		R	
Timor-Leste																R	
Togo	R		R			R	R	R								R	
Tonga	R	R				R							R			R	
Trinidad and Tobago	S		R			R	R	R								R	
Tunisia	R	R	R			R		R			R		R			R	
Turkey	R	R	R	R	R	R		R					R	R	R	R	
Turkmenistan									R							R	
Tuvalu																R	
Uganda	R					R		R								R	
Ukraine	R	R	R	R		R			R				R	R		R	
United Arab Emirates	R		R	R				R			R		R			R	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	R	R	R	R		R		R		R			R	R	R	R	
United Republic of Tanzania			S			R		R					R			R	
United States of America	R	R	R	R		R	R	R					R			R	
Uruguay	R	R	R	R	R	R		R								R	
Uzbekistan								R								R	
Vanuatu													R			R	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	R	S	R			R		R					R			R	
Viet Nam	R	S				S	R	R	R			R	R			R	
Yemen	R	S				R		R	R		R		R			R	
Zambia	R	R	R			R		R								R	
Zimbabwe								R								R	
Palestine											R						
European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites		D	D	D													
European Space Agency		D	D	D													
European Telecommunications Satellite Organization			D	D													

State, area or organization	United Nations treaties					Other agreements										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
	1967	1968	1972	1975	1979	1963	1974	1971	1971	1975	1976	1976	1976	1982	1983	1992
	OST	ARRA	LIAB	REG	MOON	NTB	BRS	ITSO	INTR	ESA	ARB	INTC	IMSO	EUTL	EUM	ITU
Total R (ratification, acceptance, approval accession or succession)	104	94	92	62	16	126	37	150	26	22	20	10	99	49	30	193
Total S (signature)	25	24	21	4	4	11	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total D (declaration of acceptance of rights and obligations)	0	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: When there is no entry in a row in which a State's name appears, that State has not signed the agreement referred to in that column heading or is not a party to it or has withdrawn from it.

^a Burundi has not yet filed an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with its declaration under article XIX and has not yet signed the operating agreement.

^b Canada has a cooperation agreement with the European Space Agency but is not a member of the Agency.