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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2017
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
General exchange of views on the application of
international law to small satellite activities**

**Draft questionnaire on the application of international law
to small satellite activities**

Note by the Secretariat

The Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (A/AC.105/1113, para. 231), requested the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire, to be addressed to member States and permanent observers of the Committee, containing a set of questions addressing the practice of the development and use of small satellites, as well as policy and legal aspects of their use.

The present conference room paper contains the draft questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.299.



Annex

Draft questionnaire on the application of international law to small satellite activities

1. Overview of Activities on Small Satellites

1.1 Are small satellites serving the needs of your society? Has your country determined whether small satellites could serve an identified technological or development need?

1.2 Is your country involved in small satellites activities such as designing, manufacturing, launching and operating? If so, please list any projects, as appropriate. If not, are there any future plans?

1.3 Is there a focal point in your country responsible for coordinating small satellites activities as part of your national space activities?

2. Licensing

2.1 Do you have a legal or regulatory framework to supervise any aspect of small satellite activities in your country? If so, are they general acts or specific rules?

3. Responsibility and Liability

3.1 How are liability and insurance requirements enforced on an operator in your country, for a small satellite under your country's responsibility in the event that "damage" occurs on the surface of Earth, to aircraft in flight, or to another space object in orbit?

4. Launching State and Liability

4.1 Since small satellites are not always deployed into orbit with dedicated rockets as in the case of larger satellites, there is the need for clarification in the understanding of the definition of "launch". When a launch of a small satellites requires two steps, first, launching from a site to an orbit and, second, deploying the small satellite to another orbit, in your view would the first step be regarded as the "launch" within the meaning of the United Nations treaties on outer space?

4.2 Do you think there should be a new, or different, international regulatory approach to address small satellite operations?

5. Registration

5.1 Does your country have a practice of registering small satellites? If so, does your country have a practice of updating the status of small satellites? Is there any legislation or regulation in your country that requires non-governmental entities to submit to the government information for the purpose of registration, including updating of the status of small satellites they operate?

6. Space Debris

6.1 Could the notion of "damage" be used to cover loss resulting from a manoeuvre performed by an operational space object in order to avoid collision with a space object not complying with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space?

6.2 Do you think there is a need for a specific orbit for small satellites and megaconstellations?