



National Legislation & Regulation of Space Activities

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Relevant U.N. Outer Space Treaty Provisions



- International responsibility (Art. VI)
- Obligation to authorize & supervise (Art. VI)
- Liability as a launching state (Art. VII)
- Registration (Art. VIII)



Reasons for States to Enact National Space Legislation

- To fulfill international treaty obligations
- To achieve consistency and predictability in the conduct of space activities under the jurisdiction of the State
- To provide a practical regulatory system for private sector involvement
- To improve national coordination of space activities



Different National Approaches

- States adapt their national legal frameworks according to their specific needs and practical considerations
- Key elements to consider:
 - Scope of application
 - Authorization and licensing
 - Safety
 - Continuing supervision
 - Registration
- Unified acts vs. combination of national legal instruments



General Scope of National Regulatory Frameworks



- **Authorize a space activity**
 - Launching of objects into outer space
 - Operation of a launch/re-entry site
 - Operation of a space object
- **Implement national policy objectives**
 - Promote responsible actors and sustainable practices (e.g. UNCOPUOS Debris Guidelines)
 - Promote specific space activities (e.g. civil earth observation, telehealth)
 - Promote scientific exploration and research



U.S. Legislative & Regulatory Overview



- Party to the Outer Space Treaty, Registration Convention, Liability Convention, and Rescue & Return Agreement
- National authorizing legislation
 - Combination of acts
 - Authority to specific U.S. government departments/agencies to regulate particular space activities
- Regulations are promulgated
- Licenses are required
- Compliance monitoring



NOAA as a Responsible Regulator



- License and monitor U.S. private remote sensing space systems
 - National and Commercial Space Programs Act (NCSPA) (51 U.S.C. § 60121 et. seq.)
 - Licensing of Private Land Remote-Sensing Space Systems Regulations (15 CFR Part 960)
- License conditions include:
 - Compliance with international obligations
 - *Spacecraft disposal and orbital debris mitigation plan*



Summary

- **States are obligated to supervise and authorize space activities**
- **National legislation and regulation can facilitate supervision and authorization of private and government space activities**
- **National legislation and regulation provides additional benefits, including increased predictability, consistency, transparency, and improved coordination**
- **Legislation and regulation should comply with international obligations and ensure activities are undertaken responsibly.**



Thank You

Muchas Gracias

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