National Legislation & Regulation of Space Activities

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• 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.)

• 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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