

Treaties and Principles Related to International Space Cooperation

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Outer Space Treaty

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966

Entry into force on 10 October 1967

Status as of 1 January 2008: 98 States Parties/27 Signatories

- ◆ **Exploration and use of outer space - province of all mankind (*Article I*)**
- ◆ **Principle of non-appropriation (*Article II*)**
- ◆ **Weapons of mass destruction (*Article IV*)**
- ◆ **Astronauts-envoys of mankind (*Article V*)**
- ◆ **Responsibility for national activities in outer space (*Article VI*)**
- ◆ **International liability for damage (*Article VII*)**
- ◆ **Jurisdiction and control and ownership(*Article VIII*)**
- ◆ **Cooperation and mutual assistance (*Article IX*)**
- ◆ **Installations on the Moon and other celestial bodies (*Article XII*)**



Rescue Agreement

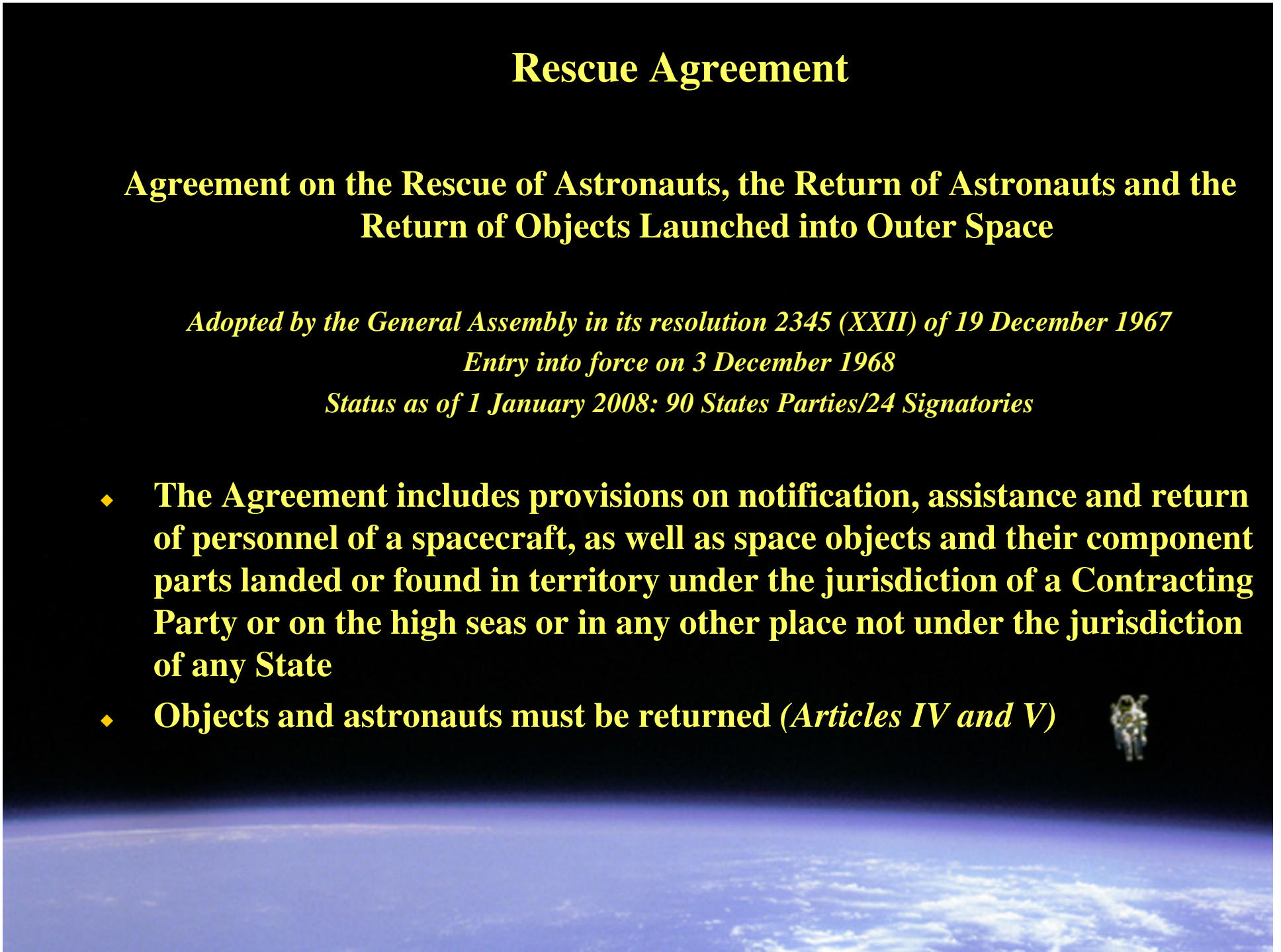
Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2345 (XXII) of 19 December 1967

Entry into force on 3 December 1968

Status as of 1 January 2008: 90 States Parties/24 Signatories

- ◆ **The Agreement includes provisions on notification, assistance and return of personnel of a spacecraft, as well as space objects and their component parts landed or found in territory under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party or on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State**
- ◆ **Objects and astronauts must be returned (*Articles IV and V*)**



Liability Convention

Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2777 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971

Entry into force on 1 September 1972

Status as of 1 January 2008: 86 State Parties/24 Signatories

- ◆ **Meaning of terms “damage”, “launching”, “launching State”, “space object” (Article I)**
- ◆ **Absolute liability (Article II)**
- ◆ **Fault liability (Article III)**
- ◆ **Third Party claims, joint and several liability, compensation for damage (Articles IV-XIII)**
- ◆ **Claims Commission (Articles XIV-XX)**
- ◆ **Important for non-space faring states**
- ◆ **State based**



Registration Convention

Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3235 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974

Entry into force on 15 September 1976

Status as of 1 January 2008: 51 States Parties/4 Signatories

- ◆ **Meaning of terms “launching State”, “space object”, State of registry”**
(Article I)
- ◆ **Obligation by launching State to register space object launched into Earth orbit or beyond, establishment of national registry, determination of State of registry when more than one launching State**
(Article II)
- ◆ **Establishment of United Nations Register** *(Article III)*
- ◆ **Detailed registration requirements** *(Article IV)*
- ◆ **Identification of space object which has caused damage, exchange of information** *(Article VI)*



Moon Agreement

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/68 of 5 December 1979

Entry into force on 11 July 1984

Status as of 1 January 2008: 13 States Parties/4 Signatories

- ◆ **Use exclusively for peaceful purposes (*Article 3*)**
- ◆ **Exploration and use – province of mankind (*Article 4*)**
- ◆ **Freedom of scientific investigation (*Article 6*)**
- ◆ **Environmental protection (*Article 7*)**
- ◆ **Right to placement of facilities and installations, and establishment of manned and unmanned stations (*Articles 8-10*)**
- ◆ **Common heritage of mankind (*Article 11*)**
- ◆ **Jurisdiction and control, international responsibility for national activities, notification and consultation (*Articles 12-15*)**



Declarations and Legal Principles on Outer Space Activities

- ◆ **Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space**
(adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1986 (resolution 41/65, annex))
- ◆ **Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space**
(adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1992 (resolution 47/68))
- ◆ **Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries**
(adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 1996 (resolution 51/122, annex))



Recent Achievements in the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS

Some aspects concerning the use of the geostationary orbit

- *Paper adopted by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/738, annex III)*
- *Paragraph 4 of GA resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000*

Review of the concept of the “launching State”

- *Report of Working Group of Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/787, Annex IV, Appendix)*
- *GA resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004 on the application of the concept of the “launching State”*

Practice of States and international organizations in registering Space objects

- *Report of Working Group of Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/891, annex III, appendix)*
- *GA resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007 on recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects*

General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

- *Report completed 2012. UNGA Resolution to be considered*

Capacity-building in space law

General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures

Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space



UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee

International Mechanisms for Cooperation

- Agenda item entitled “Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space”
 - Co-sponsored by: China, Ecuador, Japan, Peru, Saudi Arabia and the United States
 - 5 year work plan to begin in 2013
 - LSC will take stock of the various mechanisms employed by Member States to conduct international collaboration with a view to identifying common principles and procedures.
 - Helpful to Member States as they choose relevant mechanisms to facilitate future cooperative endeavors, particularly for long-term sustainability of space activities.



International Mechanisms for Cooperation (Cont.)

The multi-year work plan:

Year 1: Exchange of information on the range of existing international space cooperation mechanisms;

Year 2: Continue exchange of information, establish working group, request Secretariat to prepare a report categorizing the range of cooperation mechanisms;

Year 3: Exchange of additional information, taking into account the report by the Secretariat. Request the Secretariat to prepare a report identifying the legal issues commonly addressed in existing agreements;

Year 4: Working group reviews the report by the Secretariat and begins drafting its report;

Year 5: Working Group finalizes its report.

