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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-third session
Vienna, 15–26 April 2024
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
**Status and application of the five United Nations
treaties on outer space, and ways and means,
including capacity-building, to promote their
implementation**

**Sharing approaches of the United Kingdom to Article XI
implementation and notifications**

Submitted by the United Kingdom

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the United Kingdom.

* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.326](#).



United Kingdom – sharing its approach to Article XI implementation and notifications

1. At the 62nd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Status And Application Of The Five United Nations Treaties On Outer Space agreed that at the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee, it should commence an exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, in which States agreed to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of the nature, conduct, locations and results of activities in outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies.
2. Diligent implementation of Article XI can serve as an important transparency and confidence building measure (TCBM), which helps ensure the avoidance of misunderstanding and miscalculations so that the exploration and use of outer space remains a peaceful and sustainable endeavour.

I. How does the United Kingdom implement Article XI?

3. The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) notifies the United Nations, via the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) by means of a Note Verbale on updates to nature, conduct, locations, and results of UK space activities.
4. For space objects where the UK is the registering state, the UK notifies the United Nations of any material changes using submissions under Article IV of the Registration Convention.
5. For space objects where the UK is not the registering state but has a UK interest, the UK notifies the United Nations of any material changes using submissions under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.

II. What information does the United Kingdom share using Article XI?

6. The information that the United Kingdom shares when providing an Article XI submission depends on the nature of the activity taking place.
7. For example, when there is a change of satellite ownership, the United Kingdom will notify member states typically with the following information:
 - The international designator of the satellite
 - The state of registry and other launching states
 - The name of the satellite
 - The date and location of launch
 - The basic orbital parameters of the satellite
 - The general function of the space object
 - The geostationary position of the space object
 - The name of the space object operator or owner
 - The website for the space object or owner
 - The launch vehicle used to launch the satellite
 - A section for other information
8. However, when notifying member states about the disposal of a satellite at the End of Life, the United Kingdom will share additional information related to the date and time of the disposal.

III. When and how does the UK share information?

9. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for monitoring space activities in the UK. Notifications to the United Nations are made by the CAA by means of a Note Verbale issued by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

10. The CAA presently uses the United Nations' Registration Submission Form for submitting Article XI notifications and registration notifications.

11. UK notifications to the United Nations are usually made within weeks/months of the relevant event – although exact times can vary, depending on external factors (e.g. assignment of the necessary International Designator for a given space object).

12. The UK would like to show some examples of how we have made Article XI notifications:

Change of ownership:

- In 2002, Inmarsat communications satellites changed ownership from belonging to an international organization to a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.
- In 2015, a military communications satellite changed ownership from the company Paradigm Secure Communications Ltd to Airbus Defence and Space Ltd.
- In 2017, an Echostar communications satellite changed ownership from the satellite manufacturer Space Systems Loral to Echostar Satellite Services LLC, following launch and in-orbit testing.

Change in orbital positioning:

- In 2016, an Inmarsat communications satellite changed its orbital position in geosynchronous orbit.
- **Decommissioning End-of-Life of a satellite:**
 - In 2020, the Da Vinci technology demonstration satellite was decommissioned.
 - In 2023, an Intelsat communication satellite was decommissioned.
- **Decay, re-entry or deorbit of a satellite:**
 - In 2023, the Da Vinci technology demonstration satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere.

IV. Summary

13. With increasingly novel orbital and beyond earth orbit activities taking place in the near future, it must be considered how member states share information on these activities.

14. The UK believes it is constructive for member states to consider whether Article XI should be utilized for this purpose.

15. We welcome the discussion questions prepared by the chair and further discussions at the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space on this topic.