

Kingdom of the Netherlands – Agenda-item 6 Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mme Chair, distinguished delegations

Mme Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

My delegation wishes to make a short statement under this agenda-item to raise an issue that is of concern to my Government. This concerns the registration of space activities. Article IX of the OST obliges States to have due regard to the interests of other States. One element of the proper implementation of this obligation is the sharing of information. Article XI follows with an obligation to inform the international community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of the nature, conduct and results of activities in outer space. The OST does not prescribe the way in which this information must be provided.

The Registration Convention, then, elaborates on this, but is limited to the registration of objects launched into space, and to the parties to that Convention. It does not address the registration of space activities in a broader sense. In view of the increase of activities in outer space, in particular on the Moon, but also for instance sub-orbital flights, my Government considers that we must address the way in which information is shared on such activities.

My delegation wishes to stress that, also in view of the desirability of transparency and confidence building measures, it is critical that States share information on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. My government notes the increase of registration. At the same time, the sharing of information may be improved. It would benefit from harmonisation. It would also benefit from a more accessible, perhaps electronic, process, for instance through the use of a template or a form that could be used by States for the sharing of information on their outer space activities, including activities other than the bringing into orbit of a space object. These are pragmatic steps that could be taken and would benefit the space community.

To conclude, my delegation would welcome the views of other delegations on the need to improve the implementation of Articles IX and XI of the OST, with a view to enhancing transparency and improving the sustainable use of outer space.

I thank you for your attention.