

*Sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, (20-31 March 2023)*

**STATEMENT BY
ACTING DIRECTOR
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS (UNOOSA)**

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As delegations are aware, the Office for Outer Space Affairs continues to discharge the substantive responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the treaties and principles on outer space.

With regard to the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, I am pleased to note that, in 2022, 2,055 functional and 44 non-functional space objects were registered with the Secretary-General by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and the United States of America.

Also, in 2022, 317 space object re-entry notifications and additional information for 12 space objects were received from Belgium, Canada, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Space Agency.

In 2023, UNOOSA has so far received registrations for another 410 space objects from Denmark, India, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States and Eumetsat. UNOOSA would like to take this opportunity to thank States of registry for their assistance in the timely resolution of related issues.

UNOOSA notes that this significant increase in registrations has resulted in delays in the dissemination of submissions and I would like to assure States that we are actively working to overcome the challenges posed by handling such a large volume within UNOOSA's existing resources. To that end, I am pleased to inform delegates that UNOOSA has begun work with the United Nations Information Technology Service on the multi-year development of an online portal that will allow States of registry to directly submit registration information, facilitate and improve transparency in submission revision, provide a "registration dashboard" for each State of registry and automate some of UNOOSA's processing tasks. UNOOSA will continue to update the Subcommittee on developments.

In light of the increasing interest of States in space object registration, UNOOSA was pleased to launch "The Registration Project: Supporting Implementation of Treaty Obligations related to the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space" in 2022, with the support of the United Kingdom. The project aims to enhance international expertise on registration

practices, and its first phase consists of an interview series, stakeholder study, and expert event. Permanent Missions will have received an information circular inviting States to participate in the stakeholder interview series to be held in April/May of this year. Interpretation in official languages of the United Nations will be made available for these interviews. The deadline for participation as well as interpretation requirements is 24 March and States are invited to register. The interviews and a supplementary questionnaire will be used in a stakeholder study for an Expert Event on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, that will take place in-person, in Vienna on 29-30 May 2023 (two days before this year's COPUOS session). States are invited to register their participants using the provided weblink by 14 April 2023.

UNOOSA is also pleased to inform delegates that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/101, 41 States have provided contact details on their national focal points and invites those States that have not done so to do so.

Concerning other notifications made in 2022, UNOOSA disseminated a notification by Netherlands (Kingdom of the) under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, and two notifications by Australia under Article V of the Rescue Agreement.

The summary above on the status of formal actions under the treaties and principles demonstrates the importance of further enhancing the application and implementation of obligations under the United Nations instruments on outer space. The Office would, once again, like to thank States and intergovernmental organizations for their assistance in the fulfilment of those responsibilities under the treaties and principles on outer space.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me also to inform you on the status of the Space Law for New Space Actors project that UNOOSA launched in 2019 to enhance efforts to raise awareness of, adherence to, and implementation of, the existing normative framework governing outer space activities. The project aims to help Member States enhance their capacity to develop national space legislation and policy, in line with international space law.

Since the launch of the project and thanks to the generous financial support of the project's donors, eight tailor-made technical advisory missions to both regional and national beneficiaries were delivered. These included the regional in-person event for African States that was held in December 2022 in Vienna and gathered over 25 representatives from 15 different African States interested in developing their national space legislation and policies. The Office has also delivered a regional event to Asia and the Pacific region and tailor-made events for national authorities of Chile, Malaysia, the Philippines, Rwanda, and Thailand. Building on an ever-growing number of requests from Member States to receive advisory services, in 2023, UNOOSA will continue to deliver tailor-made technical advisory missions, starting with Kenya this April.

In addition to the tailor-made events, the Office has developed four interactive eLearning modules on space law pertaining to developing national space legislation and policy, as well as a brand-new database called Accessing Space Treaty Resource Online (ASTRO) that serves as a collection of international and national instruments on space activities. These digital tools, developed for the benefit of all States, are an important addition to the services offered under the project.

If you wish to learn more about the Space Law for New Space Actors project, I would like to use this opportunity and invite you to join a side event on the project that will be held on Wednesday, 23 March, from 14.00 to 14.45 in Conference Room 3. During the event you will have a chance to hear from project donors and beneficiaries of the successfully concluded events, as well as learn more about the digital tools developed under the project.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you for your kind attention.
